

THE
BEAUTIES
OF
NATURE and ART
DISPLAYED,
IN A
TOUR through the WORLD;
CONTAINING,

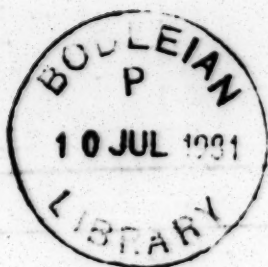
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| <p>I. A General Account of all the Countries in the World, remarkable for either Natural or Artificial Curiosities; their Situation, Boundaries, Extent and Divisions; their Rivers, Air, Soils, Chief Cities, &c.</p> <p>II. A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of each Country, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; of remarkable Mountains, Caverns, and Volcano's; of Medicinal and other singular Springs; of Cataracts, Whirlpools, &c.</p> <p>III. An Historical Account of the most remarkable Earthquakes, Inundations, Fires, Epidemic Diseases, and other public Calami-</p> | <p>ties, which have, at different times, visited the Inhabitants.</p> <p>IV. Extraordinary Instances of Longevity, Fertility, &c. among the Inhabitants; together with an Account of their most celebrated Inventions, Discoveries, &c.</p> <p>V. Particular Descriptions of the most remarkable Public Buildings, and other singular Productions of Art.</p> <p>VI. Curious Remains of Antiquity; remarkable Laws, Customs, and Traditions of the Inhabitants; together with a Summary View of the most extraordinary Revolutions among them.</p> |
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Illustrated and embellished with Copper Plates.

V O L. XIII.

L O N D O N :

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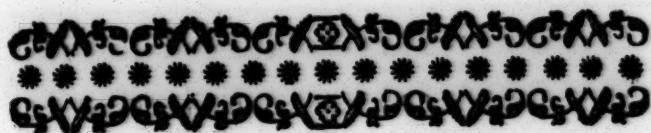


THE
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C H A P. II.
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C H A P. II. Of B A R B A R Y.

S E C T. I.

A general Account of BARBARY.

 BARBARY is situated between 11 degrees west, and 30 degrees east longitude, and between 28 and 37 degrees of north latitude. Its greatest length, from east to west, is about 2500 miles; and its greatest breadth, from south to north, is about 600 miles. It is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea, which divides it from Europe, on the north; by Egypt, on the east; by Biledulgerid, on the south; and by the Atlantic Ocean, on the west.

This vast tract of country, comprehended under the common name of Barbary, is distinguished into the following five kingdoms, or states: 1. The kingdom of Barca, the chief city of which is Dorca. 2. The kingdom of

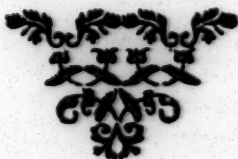
Tripoli. with its chief city of the same name. 3. The kingdom of Tunis, with its chief city of the same name. 4. The kingdom of Algiers, containing the cities of Algiers, Tremesan, Oran, Burgia, and Constantina ; and 5. The empire of Morocco, divided into the kingdom of Fez, the chief cities of which are Fez and Mequinez ; and the kingdom of Morocco, with its chief city of the same name.

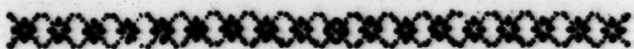
The principal mountain in these parts is mount Atlas, which runs the whole length of Barbary, from east to west, and parts it from Biledulgerid. This mountain abuts into the Western Ocean, which divides the western from the eastern continent, and is from mount Atlas called the Atlantic Ocean. The antient poets have supposed that this mountain sustained the world ; whence we see Atlas with the world on his shoulders ; and a geographical description of the globe is commonly called *an Atlas*.

There are few rivers in Barbary ; the chief river is the Mulvia, which rises in the desarts, and running from south to north, divides Morocco from the kingdom of Algiers, and discharges itself into the Mediterranean Sea.

Barbary is, next to Egypt, the most fruitful, trading, and populous part of Africa, though Barca is scarce any thing else but a parched barren desert, with very little water ; there being only some small spots near villages, which afford a little corn and a few dates, whereof the
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natives exchange a small quantity with their neighbours for sheep and camels. The soil of Tunis is generally fruitful towards the west, but very poor towards the east for want of water; and that part of Tripoli contiguous to Tunis is tolerably fertile. Algiers is very mountainous towards the Mediterranean; but both hills and vallies, where they are cultivated, abound in corn, dates, almonds, olives, figs, grapes, and other fruits. The country of Fez and Morocco is finely diversified with mountains and vast extended plains, most of them sufficiently fruitful, and pretty well inhabited; though in many parts, as well as the rest of Barbary, it is dry, sandy, and barren.





S E C T. II.

A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of Barbary, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; of medicinal and other singular Springs; of Caverns, and other natural Objects of Curiosity.

A N I M A L S.

OF all the animals of Barbary, the Lion, usually called the King of Beasts, seems to merit our first attention. This noble creature, which rules with a tyrannical empire over the inhabitants of the woods and deserts, has a head very large, and not at all proportioned to his body. He has a thick flattish nose, a very wide mouth, red fiery eyes, hollow, and looking somewhat awry. His neck is adorned with a fine shagged mane, but the lioness wants this ornament. He has a long tail, very strong legs, and each of his fore feet has five distinct claws, the hinder but four, all crooked, sharp, and exceeding hard. The hair of some lions is curled, of others lank and thin, and always of a dunnish colour; for those who pretend there are black, white, and red lions, are grossly mistaken, none such being to be found, except those which owe their birth to heraldry or painting. The roaring of the lion is frightful, and

and every beast dreads his approach ; but notwithstanding all his courage and fierceness, it is said, that he himself trembles at the crowing of a cock. He is of a very savage nature, preying upon other animals, chiefly the wild boar, which yet, as Dr. Shaw informs us, hath sometimes been known to defend itself with so much bravery, that the victory has inclined to neither side, the carcasses of them both having been found lying dead together, all in gore and mangled to pieces.

Some have reported that the lion is afraid of women, and that, upon taking up a stick and calling him names, he will immediately lose his fierceness, and fly from the flocks they are attending. Something of this kind, says our learned traveller, perhaps may have happened when they have been well satiated with food, at which time the Arabs pretend the lions have so little courage, that they can seize upon their prey, and rescue it out of their jaws. But these instances are very rare, it oftner falling out, that lions devour women as well as men, for want of other creatures. Fire is what they are most afraid of ; and yet, notwithstanding all the precaution the Arabs take in this respect, together with the barking of their dogs, and the noise themselves make all night long, it frequently happens, that a lion will leap into the midst of an inclosure, and bring out along with him a sheep or a goat. If these ravages are repeated, the Arabs take notice where the lion enters, and there dig a pit,
covering

covering it over slightly with reeds, or small branches of trees, into which he falls and is taken.

The hunting of the lion, according to Dr. Shaw, is in some respects like the method of taking elephants heretofore described. On this occasion a whole district is summoned to appear, who, forming themselves into a circle, inclose a space of three, four, or five miles in compass, according to the number of people and quality of the ground that is pitched upon to be the scene of action. The footmen advance first, rushing into the thickets with their dogs and spears to put up the game; whilst the horsemen, keeping a little behind, are always ready to charge, as soon as the wild beast makes a sally. Thus they proceed, still contracting their circle, till they all at last either close in together, or meet with something to divert them. This sort of pastime is sometimes very agreeable; for different kinds of animals being by this means driven together, they seldom fail of having chases after hares, jackals, hyenas, and other creatures, as well as the lion. But this sport is frequently attended with fatal accidents; for it is a common observation, that when the lion perceives himself in danger, nay sometimes the very moment he is roused, he will seize directly upon the person that is nearest to him, and, rather than quit his hold, suffer himself to be cut to pieces.

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We have already taken some notice of the Jackal, which creature, as well as the Siyah Ghush, or Black-eared Cat, is supposed to be the lion's provider; but our author thinks it may be doubted whether there be any such friendly intercourse between such different animals. In the night-time indeed, these, like other kinds of beasts, are prowling after sustenance; and when the sun rises, and the lion betakes himself to his den, both the Siyah Ghush and the Jackal have been seen gnawing such carcases as the lion is supposed to have fed upon the night before. This, and the promiscuous noise which the Jackal is often heard to make with the lion, are the only circumstances Dr. Shaw is acquainted with in favour of the vulgar opinion.

The Jackal yelps every night about the gardens and villages, feeding upon roots, fruit, and carrion. Mr. Ray supposes it to be the *Lupus aureus* of the ancients; but what Oppian describes as such, is a creature of much more ferocity.

Next to the lion, among the quadrupeds of a less tameable nature, we ought to mention the Panther, whose skin is of a yellow colour, beautifully marked with round black spots, his hair short and mossy, and who is thought to equal, if not exceed the lion in its savage qualities*. This creature is very swift, and

* Notwithstanding the natural ferocity of the lion, some authors give us instances of its generous and

and attacks both men and beasts; but his usual method of seizing his prey, is jumping upon it by surprize. His tongue is rough as a file, and his skin is in great request for its beauty, and bears a large price, being not very common. The female Panther, like the lioness, has two rows of nipples, giving suck to three, sometimes four or five whelps at a time. The Arabs say, that when the young ones breed their teeth, they are seized with a fever, which generally carries off three out of four; and that this is the reason why their numbers at present are so inconsiderable. But whether this is owing to such a disease, to a greater dispersion of the Arabs, or to the easier way of killing them since the invention of fire-arms, it is certain, says our author, there would be great difficulty at present to procure a fiftieth part of the number of wild beasts that Africa

and grateful temper. Father Mainbourg, in his *History of the Croisades*, tells us of a gentleman that had delivered a lion from a monitrous serpent, which had twisted itself round the body of that animal, and would have stung him to death if the gentleman had not killed it with his spear. The lion, sensible of the kindness done him, accompanied his benefactor like a dog during his stay in the Holy Land; and when he embarked for Europe, the master of the ship refusing to take the lion on board, he swam after the ship till his strength being exhausted, he was drowned. But our readers will not expect we should vouch for the truth of stories of this nature.

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may be supposed to have furnished in the time of the antient Romans.

There is an animal in Barbary called Faadh, which agrees with the leopard in being spotted, but differs in other respects; for the skin is not only of a deeper colour, but much coarser; neither is the creature itself of so fierce a nature: however, the Arabs imagine it to be a spurious offspring between a lion and a leopardess. It feeds upon carrion, sometimes upon roots and herbs, and must be in great necessity if it attacks a sheep or goat. It can therefore hardly be taken for the *Lupus Cervarius* of the antients, which is described to be a much fiercer creature.

There are two other animals of this country marked like a leopard, but their spots are of a darker colour, and the fur somewhat longer and softer. The one is of the cat-kind, about a third less than a full-grown leopard, and Dr. Shaw thinks it may be taken for a species of the lynx, or rather for the lesser panther of Oppian. The other has a small pointed head, with such teeth, feet, &c. as shew it to be of the weasel kind. It has a round slender body, about a foot long; and its tail is regularly marked with a succession of black and white ringlets.

The Horse, says our author, formerly the glory and distinguishing badge of Numidia, bath of late years very much degenerated in

Barbary ; or rather the Arabs have been discouraged from breeding up a fine race, which they were sure would one time or other fall into the hands of the Turkish officers. A valuable and well-taught Barbary horse, besides the supposed quality of never lying down, and of standing still when the rider drops his bridle, is to have a long pace, and to stop short, if required, in a full career. No other motions are practised or admired in that country, it being reckoned very impolite among the Arabs, to trot or amble. But how much soever the Barbs may have formerly been esteemed, at present the Doctor tells us the Egyptian horses have deservedly the preference of all others for size and beauty, the smallest of them being usually sixteen hands high, and all of them shaped, according to their phrase, like the antelope.

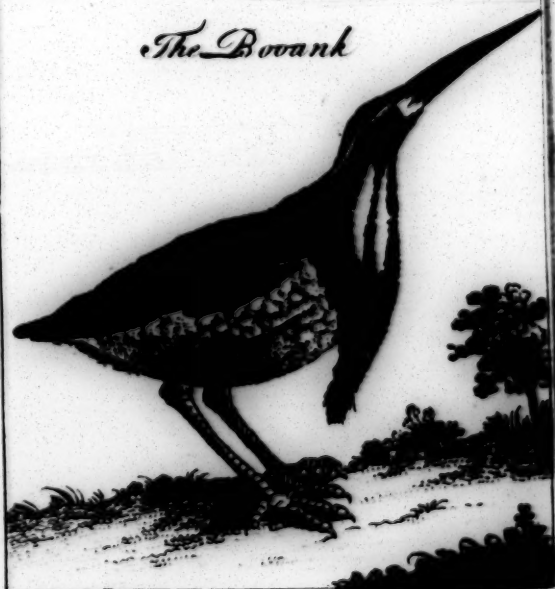
Among other observations relating to the kingdoms of Algiers and Tunis, our author mentions this remarkable particular, namely, that a gelding or a weather is rarely if ever known in those countries ; for such males of sheep, or of the black cattle, as are more than sufficient for the preservation of the species, have only their testicles squeezed or discomposed when they are about three months old ; the Mahometants account it an act of cruelty to castrate any creatures except those of their own species.



The Houbara



The Boonk



Hindell & Co.

Let us now take a view of some of the most curious birds of Barbary, as they are described by the learned traveller, we have so often mentioned. A remarkable animal of the feathered tribe is the Houbaara, which is as big as a capon, and its body of a longer shape. It frequents the confines of the deserts, and feeds upon little shrubs and insects. The body is of a light dun or yellowish colour, interspersed all over with little brown marks; but the larger feathers of the wing are black, having each of them a white spot near the middle. Those of the neck are whitish with black streaks, but are chiefly remarkable for their length, and for being erected when it is attacked or provoked. Its bill is about an inch and a half long, flat, like that of the starling; and its legs agree in shape, and in the want of the hinder toe, with those of the bustard. Nothing can be more entertaining, adds the Doctor, than to see this bird pursued by the hawk, and what various stratagems it makes use of in order to escape its enemy.

There is a bird called by the Arabs the Boo-onk, or Long Neck, because in walking and searching for food, it throws out its neck seven or eight inches. It is of the bittern kind, somewhat less than the lapwing, having short and slender legs, of a green colour. Its bill is likewise green, three inches long, and in shape resembling that of a stork. The neck, breast, and belly are of a light yellow, but the back and upper part of the wings are

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of a jet black. The tail is short, and the feathers of the neck are long and sometimes streaked with white.

The Ox-Bird, which is about the size of a curlew, is very beautiful, being all over of a milk-white colour, except the bill and legs, which are of a fine red. It generally feeds in the meadows, along with cattle; but its flesh is not savoury, and soon corrupts.

They have a species of Thrush in Barbary, which is justly admired for the richness of its plumage. The head, neck, and back are of a fine light green, the wings of a lark-colour, the breast white, and spotted like the thrush's, the rump of an elegant yellow, and the ends of the feathers of the wings and tail are tipped with the same colour. This bird is not very common, appearing only in the summer-months, when figs are in season.

The Capsa Sparrow, so called from a city of that name in Tunis, is a curiosity that deserves our notice as much as any other of this kind. It is about as big as the common house-sparrow, and is frequent in the date-villages to the westward of the Lake of Marks. The colour of it is like that of a lark, except on the breast, which is somewhat lighter, and shines like a pigeon's. But what this bird is admired for, is its exceeding sweet and melodious note, infinitely preferable, says Dr. Shaw, to that of the Canary bird or nightingale. On this account

count several attempts have been made to bring it to Kairoan, and other parts of the country ; but it has been always found of so delicate a nature, as to languish and pine away upon being removed from its native climate.

The Rhaad or Safsaf is a gregarious bird, of which there are two species in Barbary, the smaller whereof is as big as an ordinary pullet, but the larger is about the size of the Houbaara, different also from the lesser in having a black head, with a tuft of dark blue feathers immediately below it. Each species of them has a white belly, the back and wings of a buff-colour spotted with brown, the tail lighter, but marked all along with transverse streaks of black. The word Rhaad denotes thunder in the language of the country, and is supposed to be a name given to this bird from the noise it makes, like our partridges, in springing from the ground ; as Safsaf, the other name, expresses the beating of the air, when the bird is got upon the wing.

Another bird of the gregarious kind is called the Kitawiah, which, like the Rhaad, wants the hinder toe, and frequents the most barren parts of Barbary, as the Rhaad does the more fertile parts of the country. In size and shape it resembles a dove, and, like some birds of that kind, has short feathered feet. Its body is of a livid colour, with black spots ; the belly is blackish, and upon the throat there is the figure of a half moon in a beautiful yellow. Each feather of the tail has a white spot at the ex-

tremity, and the middle one is longer than the rest, and pointed. The flesh is of the same colour with that of the Rhaad, and is not of an agreeable flavour, but of easy digestion.

Among the more curious birds of Barbary, we may add to the Eagle kind, says our author, the Karaburno, an ash-coloured hawk, about the bigness of our buzzard, with a black bill, yellow short feet, the back of a bluish colour, the pinions of the wings black, with a whitish tail and belly.

They have a kind of Water-Hen in Barbary, with a white spotted wing, and dark green feet. It is less than a plover, has a black bill, an inch and a half long, the belly and breast of a dark-brown colour, and the back still darker. The rump is white below, and variegated above with black and white streaks.

Another bird or two may suffice for a specimen of the fowls of Barbary, amongst which our author takes notice of a sort of Shoveler, of the bigness of a wigeon. It has red feet, a broad flat bill, black, and armed with teeth; its breast, belly, and head, are of an iron-colour, and upon each wing there are three spots of blue, white, and green, contiguous to each other.

There is another kind of Shoveler somewhat larger than the former, but with a less bill, a reddish neck, and a head adorned with a small
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tuft of tawny feathers. It has a white belly, but the back is diversified with streaks of black and white alternately. The feathers of the tail are pointed, and those of the wings have each of them a black and white spot contiguous to each other. The extremity of the bill is black, and the feet are bluer than those of the wigeon.

As to animals of the lizard and serpent kind, most of those which have been described in the account of Egypt, are common in several parts of Barbary, particularly the Thaibanne, a large serpent, of whose skin Dr. Shaw says, he has seen purses made, which were four inches or more in diameter.

The Zurreike is another serpent common in the deserts, which is usually about fifteen inches long, of a slender body, and remarkable, as the name seems to imply, for darting itself along with great swiftness; which makes Dr. Shaw's conjecture, of its being the *Jaculus* of the antients, not improbable.

But the most malignant of this class of animals is the Leffah, which is of a less uniform turn of body than the serpent last described, and seldom above twelve inches in length. The *Torrida Dipsas* of Lucan answers very well both to the name, which signifies to burn, and the venomous quality of this serpent.

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The Taitah is another species of serpent, between which and the Leffah, the Arabs say, there is the same antipathy as naturalists have long ago assigned between the chameleon and the viper; and that a drop of clammy juice let fall by the Taitah upon the Leffah, will throw the latter into such convulsions as are attended with almost immediate death.

Few species of insects, and creatures under that denomination, occurred to Dr. Shaw in those parts of Africa he travelled in, but such as have been already described by naturalists. The most curious species of the Butterfly kind is near four inches from the extremity of one wing to that of the other, being all over beautifully streaked with murrey and yellow. The edges of the lower wings indeed are to be excepted, which are indented, and terminate in a narrow strip an inch long, bordered with yellow in an elegant manner. What adds to their beauty is a spot of a carnation colour near the tail.

The rarest kind of the Adder-bolt is one with a broad tail, of a rusty colour, three or four inches in length, and the wings bright and spotted: but there is another, says the Doctor, of the same size, with a body more cylindrical, and differing little in form from the common locust.

A Beetle with one horn, of the colour and size of a chesnut, is a species to be met with,
but

but the least frequent of any. Its head is notched round, or indented, and its feet broad, like those of the mole-cricket.

Amongst the species of Locusts to be found in Barbary, our author mentions one of three inches in length, of a brown colour, with the fore legs armed with strong horny claws. Another sort, of the same size, and of the cucullated kind, has its upper wings streaked with a light green, and the membranaceous ones chequered with flesh-colour, brown, and scarlet. There is a third species about two inches long, with beautiful green wings, whose chief characteristics are two antennæ, which project from the forehead like a couple of feathers.

We have already given an account of Locusts in general; but to what has been said on that subject, it may not be amiss to subjoin what Dr. Shaw has related concerning those devouring insects. Those which the Doctor saw in Barbary, in 1724 and 1725, were much larger than our common grasshoppers, having brown spotted wings, with legs and bodies of a bright yellow. The wind having been some time southerly, they first appeared towards the end of March; and in the middle of April their numbers were so much increased, that in the heat of the day they formed themselves into large bodies, appearing like a succession of clouds, and darkening the sun. About the middle of May they began to retire into
proper

proper parts of the country to deposit their eggs, and in the month following the young brood began gradually to make its appearance. It was surprising to observe, says our author, that as soon as they were hatched, they immediately collected themselves together, forming compact bodies of several hundred yards square, which marching forwards over trees, walls, and houses, eat up every plant in their way, and let nothing escape them. To stop the progress of these destructive animals, the inhabitants of the country made trenches all over their fields and gardens, and filled them with water; or else endeavoured to destroy them by placing in a row great quantities of heath, stubble, or such combustible materials, and setting them on fire on their approach. All this was to no purpose; the trenches were quickly filled up, and the fires put out by infinite swarms succeeding one another; whilst the front seemed regardless of danger, and the rear pressed on so close that a retreat was impossible. After one of these bodies had been in motion for a day or two, others were hatched to glean after them, which they did in a very effectual manner, gnawing off the young branches, and even the bark of such trees as had escaped before with the loss only of their fruit and foliage.

In this manner they lived near a month upon the ruin of every thing that was green or juicy, till they arrived at their full growth, and, by casting their skins, threw off their
worm-

worm-like state. To prepare themselves for this metamorphosis, they hang by their hinder feet to a twig, branch, the corner of a stone, or the like; when by an undulating motion, used on that occasion, their heads first appear, and their bodies soon after. The whole transformation is performed in seven or eight minutes, after which they lie in a languishing condition for a little time; but when their wings are hardened by the air and sun, and the moisture dried up which was left upon casting their sloughs, they returned again to their former voracity, with an addition both of strength and agility. However, they did not continue long in this state before they were entirely dispersed, as their parents were before, after laying their eggs to prepare for a fresh offspring.

These insects, says the Doctor, sprinkled with salt and fried, are in taste not much unlike our cray-fish. The Jews were allowed to eat them; and Ludolphus has a dissertation, wherein he endeavours to prove that the quails the Israelites fed upon in the wilderness were only a species of locusts.

The Scorpion, continues our author, in consideration of its noxious qualities, may claim the next place after the locust. Some of the species are long and slender, others rounder and larger; but each of them has a tail consisting of six joints, not seven, as some ancient writers have asserted. Those on this side of
mount

mount Atlas are not very hurtful, the sting being only attended with a slight fever, and the application of a little Venice treacle soon asswaging the pain. But the Scorpions of Zaab, and most other parts of the desert, as they are larger and of a darker colour, so their poison is more malignant, and frequently proves mortal.

The bite of the Boolakaz or Rhax is of the same venomous nature ; and it is computed that twenty or thirty persons die every year by the hurt received from this animal and the Lessah.

The method of curing the bite of these creatures is either to burn the part, or to make a deep incision, and cut away the contiguous flesh. Sometimes the patient is buried up to the head in the hot sands, or in pits heated for that purpose. When no great danger is apprehended, they only apply hot ashes, or the powder of Alhenna, with two or three thin slices of an onion, tying them as a cataplasm upon the part affected. Our author never heard that olive-oil was made use of, which has lately been found a specific remedy against the bite of the viper, being rubbed warm upon the wound *.

Having

* Of this we have several instances recorded in the *Philosophical Transactions*, particularly those of William Oliver and his wife, who followed the business

Having mentioned the viper, it may not be improper to give a description of that serpent,
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business of catching and selling vipers, and offered themselves to be bit by any viper that should be procured, trusting to the virtue of a remedy they had accidentally hit on in trying various things, which was only oil of olives. On the 1st of June, 1734, in the presence of a great number of persons, the said William Oliver was bit by an old black viper or adder, brought by one of the company, upon the wrist and joint of the thumb of the right hand, so that drops of blood came from the wounds. He said that he immediately felt a violent pain and shooting, both to the top of his thumb and up his arms, even before the viper was loosened from his hand, and soon after he felt a pain like that of burning. In a few minutes his eyes began to look red and fiery, and to water very much; and in less than half an hour he perceived the venom seize his heart with a pricking pain, attended with faintness and shortness of breath. Upon this he fell into violent cold sweats, and presently after his belly began to swell, with great gripings and pains in his back, attended with vomitings and purgings. During the violence of these symptoms he affirmed that his sight was gone twice for several minutes, but that his hearing continued all the while. He said that in his former experiments he had never deferred making use of his remedy longer than when he perceived the effects of the venom reaching his heart; but this time, being willing to satisfy the company thoroughly, and depending on the oil, which had never failed him, he forbore to apply it till he found himself exceeding ill and quite giddy.

famed not only for the exceeding venomous-
ness of its bite, which is one of the most dan-
gerous

About an hour and a quarter after he was bit, a chafing-dish of burning charcoal was brought in, and his arm held over it as near as he could bear it, while his wife rubbed in with her hand the oil, which Dr. Mortimer had brought along with him, lest they should privately add any thing to it. By this means the pain soon abated, though the swelling did not much diminish, and violent vomitings and purgings ensued, with a low and interrupted pulse, so that the physicians present thought proper to give him several cordial draughts, from which he was not sensible of any great relief, but by drinking a glass or two of oil, he seemed to have some ease. In this dangerous condition he was put to bed, and his arm again bathed over a pan of charcoal; but continuing to complain much of his back and belly, the Doctor advised his wife to rub them with sallet-oil heated, which she did accordingly, whereupon he declared he found immediate ease, and his vomiting and purging soon abated. He then fell into a sound sleep, which was interrupted by persons coming to see and enquire after him, till about twelve o'clock, from which time he slept continually to five or six next morning, when he awaked and found himself perfectly well. On the 3d of June indeed his arm remained swelled, and looked red, with spots of yellow, but felt soft, and he had the perfect use of it, and even of his fingers, no pain or stiffness remaining.

These viper-catchers said, they had experienced their remedy to take effect on cows, horses and dogs, ten hours after being bit; but as to them-
selves,

gerous poisons in the animal kingdom, but also for the great usefulness of its flesh in medicine. This remarkable reptile has the biggest and flattest head of all the serpent kind, its snout being not unlike that of a hog, with sixteen small immoveable teeth in each jaw, besides two other large, sharp, hollow, canine teeth, situate on each side of the upper jaw, which are those that do the mischief. These are flexible in their articulation, and are commonly laid flat along the jaw, the animal never raising them but when it would bite; and the roots or bases of them are encompassed with a little bladder, containing a yellow insipid salivous juice, which is the poison. It is about half a yard long, and an inch in thickness; has only one row of teeth, whereas other serpents have two; and its body is not fetid,

selves, being frequently bit, they always carried a phial of sallet-oil along with them, and bathed the wound immediately. If it was in the heel, they wetted the stocking thoroughly with the oil; if in the finger, which happened oftenest, they poured some oil into that finger of their glove, which they put on again, and thus never felt any farther inconvenience from the accident, not even so much as from the sting of a bee.

The experiment was made upon the same man in the town-hall at Windsor, before Dr. Derham, Dr. Waterland, the physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries of that town, and several other gentlemen in the neighbourhood; all the symptoms of a viper-bite ensued, and the remedy was applied with the promised success.

though the inner parts of other serpents stink intolerably. It creeps slowly, and never leaps, like the rest of the serpent-kind, but is nimble enough to bite when it meets with provocation. The scales under its belly are of the colour of well-polished steel, and the rest of the body is ash-coloured or yellow, the ground speckled with brownish spots. The viper is a viviparous animal, bringing forth her young ones wrapped up in thin skins, which break on the third day, and set them at liberty. She commonly brings forth to the number of twenty, but only one each day. Pliny, Galen, and others of the antients, believed that the young killed their mother in the delivery ; but this is not the only mistake they were guilty of on the subject of the viper, for they supposed it eat cantharides, scorpions, &c. which rendered its poison so very dangerous.

As to the manner in which the viper conveys its poison, authors are somewhat disagreed. Redi and Charras have each of them wrote curious pieces on the subject, but their hypotheses are very different. Redi maintains, that all the venom of the animal is contained in the little bags or bladder before-mentioned, at the bottom of the two canine teeth ; from whence, upon biting, the yellowish liquor is squeezed out into the wound, where, mixing with the blood and other juices, it produces so many dreadful symptoms. Charras, on the other hand, maintains that this liquor is not poisonous ; that he has given it to pigeons, without

without their being at all disordered by it ; that he has found the vipers's bite mortal to animals after the bags have been taken clear out, as well as before ; and lastly, that the poison lies in the irritated spirits of the viper, which it exhales in its biting, and which are so cold that they curdle the blood, and stop the circulation. These opposite systems are both supported by a number of well-attested experiments ; but the public generally give into that of Rhedi, as answering best to the mechanism of the parts. Dr. Mead supposes it to be the true one ; and adds to Redi's account, that the viper's poison is separated from the blood by a gland lying behind the orbit of the eye, from whence there is a duct that conveys the poison to the bags at the teeth. These teeth, he observes, are tubulated for the conveyance and emission of the poison into the wound, though their hollowness does not reach quite to the tip of the tooth, but ends in a slit a little below the point, out of which the poison is emitted. Galen says, that the mountebanks in his days used to stop these perforations of the teeth with a kind of paste, after which they would expose themselves to be bitten without danger.

VEGETABLES *and* FOSSILS.

THE Cicer, or Chich Pea, is very much cultivated and esteemed in Barbary. This sort of pulse is most valued when parched, being then a favourite food to persons of all ages and distinctions. For this purpose there are copper pans and ovens in almost every street of the Eastern cities; and the method of parching these pease seems to be of great antiquity. When parched they are called Lebleby, and some writers have taken them for the pigeon's dung mentioned in scripture at the siege of Samaria. It is certain, says Dr. Shaw, that this pulse is pointed at one end, and acquires an ash colour in parching; and as the first circumstance answers to the usual figure, the other to the usual colour of pigeon's dung, the supposition is not entirely groundless.

They have a small parsnip in Barbary, somewhat like a turnip, with fibrous roots, which has a taste so agreeably pungent, that it is very much esteemed, and sold by weight. Besides our common garden herbs, they have calabashes, and several other productions of the vegetable kind, which give a relish to their soups and ragouts; nor should their coriander be omitted, which has always a principal share in the Moorish cookery. Cauliflowers arrive to great perfection in Barbary, insomuch that Dr. Shaw tells us he has seen several that were

very white, solid, and compact, measuring 2 yard or more in circumference. Their musk melons are little superior to ours in the richness of their taste, but their water-melons exceed any that are raised in the northern climates. This last sort seems to be providentially cultivated for the southern countries, as it affords a cool refreshing juice, quenches thirst, mitigates feverish disorders, and thereby compensates, in a great degree, for the excessive heats to which those countries are subject.

We have already given an account of the Palm or Date tree, of which there are great numbers in Barbary; where it is usual with persons of better fashion to entertain their guests at a wedding, the birth of a child, or upon any extraordinary occasion, with the honey, as they call it, of the date-tree. This they procure by cutting off the head of one of the more vigorous kinds, and scooping the top of the trunk into the shape of a basin. When the sap ascends it lodges in this cavity, at the rate of three quarts or a gallon a day, during the first week or fortnight; after which the quantity daily diminishes, and in six weeks or two months the juice is entirely consumed, the tree becomes dry, and is fit for nothing but fire-wood or timber. This liquor, which has a more luscious sweetness than honey, is of the consistence of a thin syrup, but soon grows tart and ropy, acquiring an intoxicating quality, and yielding by distillation an agreeable spirit.

There

There is a shrub very common in the deserts of Barbary, which has the leaves, prickles, flower, and fruit of the Jujeb, only with this difference, that the fruit is round, smaller, and more luscious, and the branches are not so pointed or crooked. This fruit is in great repute, and sold in the markets all over the southern districts of the kingdoms of Algiers and Tunis.

In those kingdoms they have a species of apricot, usually of the size and shape of a nectarine, and with the same property of not parting from the stone. The eating of these is never attended with a surfeit, whereas the common apricot is very dangerous, occasions a variety of fevers and dysenteries, and is called by a name that signifies the Killer of the Christians. They have two or three species of plumbs and cherries, but none of them either in plenty or delicious. The cherry has been formerly in such esteem, that it continues to be called the Berry of the King. Their nectarines are larger than ours, and of a better taste; and their peaches, besides their excellent flavour, will commonly weigh ten ounces. Some of their pomegranates are three or four inches in diameter, and of a pound weight. Nor ought we to omit the prickly pear, called the Fig of the Christians, perhaps, as Dr. Shaw supposes, from its being originally brought from Europe. Many families live upon it during the months of August and September; tho' it is never known to tinge the urine of a bloody colour, as it is said to do in America.

The

The walnut and olive-tree are propagated all over Barbary, but the hasel, filbert, gooseberry and currant-tree, are scarce to be met with in the country.

In the year 1723 and 1724 the locusts made vast destruction among the vineyards of Algiers, before which time, says our Author, their wine was not inferior to the best Hermintage, either in briskness or flavour, and tho' it is much degenerated since, it may still dispute preference with the wine of Spain or Portugal. The lemon and Seville orange-tree, especially the former, are in a continued succession of fruit and blossoms; but the China orange is not a native of the country, and only bears towards the latter end of autumn.

Among the fossils of Barbary, there are few curiosities. Here are mines of iron, copper, and other metals; and near Algiers and Bona, is found a soft flaky stone, which is frequently gilded over with gold like spangles, as the sparry matter that fills up the fissures glitters with those that imitate silver.

The common flint stone which most countries have in plenty, occurs so seldom in some parts of Barbary, that our merchant vessels have received some of them in the Downs for ballast, and disposed of them at Algiers for seven shillings the quintal.

Besides the common mould or soil of Algiers, there are two or three kinds of pipe and
potter's

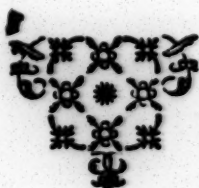
potter's clay, the former of which generally burns red. Fuller's earth is also dug in great abundance; to which we may add the Stentites or soap earth, which is in great esteem in the bagnios for cleansing and softening the skin. Lac Lunæ, which the Arabs sometimes use in staunching blood, lies usually in the futures of some laminous rocks in one part of the country, and a hard species of Almagra or Spanish Bole occurs frequently in another.

The Selenites sometimes spreads itself over whole acres of the woody and mountainous districts, and a transparent, yellow, and flesh-coloured Tale or Gypsum, often expands itself in thin cakes over some rocky parts of the country. In pounding the Gypsum we often meet with a number of small gold-like nodules, of a regular mathematical figure; but the gold and silver-like Marcasites or Pyrites are irregular with regard to their shape, being sometimes formed like the mesentery, kidney, or such sort of figures as they usually assume in other places.

The iron of the kingdom of Algiers is white and good, but is not found in any great quantity. Some of the mountains have a rich ponderous ore, with a mixture of cinnabar, but no mines have been opened there as Dr Shaw was informed. They have rich lead ores, from which large quantities of that metal might be obtained, if their mines were under a better regulation. Their method of refining it, is to
put

put layers of wood and ore alternately upon each other ; and setting the pile on fire, they frequently obtain eighty pounds of metal from one quintal of ore.

The regencies of Algiers and Tunis look with an envious eye upon the silver and copper mines of the Tingitanians, though our Author supposes, that their mountains, by farther searches and experiments, might probably be found to contain the same materials, especially copper ; for in the mountain of Fernan there are large strata of ponderous stones, tinged all over with green efflorescences ; and Dr. Shaw had a specimen from that place which seemed to shoot into grains of tin in no small quantity. The mountain T'no'nga likewise abounds with stones of the same quality, being in all appearance very strong, impregnated with copper.





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MOROCCO leather, the methods of preparing which have been already described *, is one of the most curious manufactures in Barbary. Carpets are another considerable branch of the trade and manufactures of that country. They are made indeed of coarser materials, and not so beautifully designed as those of Turkey ; but being cheaper and softer, they are preferred to lie upon by most sorts of people.

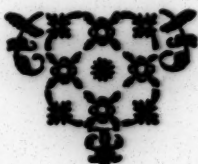
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The

* See Vol. X. p. 76. & seq.

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SPRINGS, CAVERNS, &c.

THOUGH Barbary in general is but indifferently furnished with springs of water, there are some which are remarkable for their qualities. Near the town of Elhamma, on the frontiers of Tunis, there is a hot spring, the water whereof is conveyed to the town by an aqueduct, but is so warm and impregnated with sulphur, that it is scarce drinkable till it has been exposed to the air for four and twenty hours. These hot baths, which have little hovels built over them to shelter them from the weather, are resorted to from all parts of the kingdom. One of them is called the Leper's Bath, and below it the water stagnates and forms a pool, which perhaps may be the Lake of Lepers, mentioned by Leo. The water of these springs is perfectly clear, and soft to the palate.

Near the city of Constantina, in the kingdom of Algiers, there is a very hot spring, and at a little distance another that is surprisngly cold, with a stone structure embellished with statues and other ornaments. The people thereabouts, who are very ignorant, have a notion that this place was a college, the masters and scholars of which being very wicked were turned into these statues. Nor is this the only superstitious opinion that prevails among them, especially the women; for there are great numbers of snails bred among these springs, which
their

their Marabbuts, a sort of conjuring priests very much regarded, have persuaded them are malicious devils that do them all the hurt they can, giving them violent fevers and other diseases; and the credulity of those poor people the Marabbuts fail not to turn to their own advantage.

In the same province of Constantina, Dr. Shaw takes notice of other hot springs, called the silent or enchanted baths, situated on a low ground surrounded with mountains. The waters of these fountains are of an intense heat, and at a small distance there are others which upon comparison are of as intense a coldness; perhaps therefore these may be the same with those mentioned in the preceding paragraph. We may judge of the heat of these sulphureous springs by what the Doctor tells us, that they will boil a large piece of mutton very tender in a quarter of an hour; and by what he farther observes, that the rocky ground the water runs over, to the distance sometimes of a hundred feet, is dissolved or rather calcined by it. When the substance of the rock is soft and uniform, then the water, by making every way equal impressions, forms it into the shape of cones or hemispheres, about six feet high, and nearly of the same diameter; which the Arabs*

* It is to be observed, that Barbary is inhabited by three sorts of people, Moors, Turks, and Arabs, these last living in tents, and their chief riches consisting in their cattle. The Moors are distinguished into Whites and Blacks.

maintain to be so many tents of their predecessors turned into stone : but when these rocks, besides their soft chalky substance, contain some layers of harder matter, not so easily dissolved, then, in proportion to the resistance the water has met with, we are entertained with a confusion of traces and channels, distinguished by the Arabs into sheep, camels, and horses ; nay, into men, women, and children, whom they suppose to have undergone the like fate with their habitations.

The sound occasioned by the trampling of horses over the ground about these fountains makes it probable that it is hollow underneath ; and our author supposes, that the subterraneous air escaping continually through the springs may cause that mixture of shrill, murmuring, and deep sounds, which, according to the direction of the wind, and the motion of the external air, issue out along with the water. The Arabs affirm these sounds to be the music of the fairies, who are supposed in a particular manner to make their abode at this place, and to be the grand agents in all these extraordinary appearances.

The Doctor mentions another curiosity proceeding from the quality of the water of these springs, which is, that the chalky stone being dissolved into a fine impalpable powder, and carried down afterwards with the stream, lodges itself upon the sides of the channel, nay sometimes upon the lips of the fountains themselves,

or embracing twigs, straws, and other bodies in its way, immediately hardens and shoots into a bright fibrous substance, forming itself at the same time into a variety of glittering figures and beautiful crystallizations.

Besides those already enumerated, there are several other mineral springs in the kingdom of Algiers, and other parts of Barbary, either moderately warm and proper to bathe in, or too hot for that intention. There are also divers springs and rivers, whose names Doctor Shaw has given us, which are either very salt or brackish; and yet the Arabs, by long use and custom, are very well reconciled to the taste of the water. To these we may add the salt-pits of Arzew, which are about six miles in compass, and appear like a large lake in winter, but are dry in summer, the water being then exhaled, and the salts left behind crystallized.

In the province of Ducala, in the kingdom of Morocco, there is a town called Maitbir, upon a mountain of the same name, noted for its Hundred Wells, or rather caverns cut down into the solid rock, which were probably designed for magazines to lay up corn in, where they pretend it will keep a hundred years*.

The

* It is certain that wheat may be preserved even longer than a hundred years by proper management. In order to this it must at first be shifted

The common people, however, have a notion that they conceal some treasure, and accordingly let themselves down by ropes, with lights in their hands, in order to find it out ; but we do not learn that they have made any discovery of

from place to place with a shovel every fifteen days, for at least six months successively, and afterwards once a month, or not quite so often, for some time longer. When the dust and other impurities are dispersed by this proceeding, and the corn has exhaled all its fiery particles, it may be kept as long as you please, provided the roof of the granary be of a considerable height, and all humidity excluded. But to prevent the bad impressions of the air, and keep out vermin, the most effectual method is to spread a little unslaked lime over the heap, and sprinkle it with water, whereby a sort of crust is formed upon the surface of the corn, of two or three inches thickness.

The *Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences* inform us, that in the year 1707, a magazine of corn was opened in the citadel of Mentz, which had been stored up in 1578, and the bread made of it was very good. At the castle of Sedan, in Champagne, the Abbé de Louvois, was shewn a heap of corn that had been preserved there a hundred and ten years, notwithstanding the moisture of the place at first made it sprout up to the height of eighteen inches. These shoots, dying and rotting for want of air, sunk down upon the corn they sprung from ; and this glutinous compost, incorporating with the grain underneath it, formed a very thick crust, which dried and hardened, and preserved the rest of the heap. Some bread made of this corn was sent to the French court, and gave great satisfaction.

that

that nature. These wells, as they are called, consist of several stories one under another, the lowest whereof is very large, and leads to several cells, in which are springs of fresh water. As there are many windings and turnings in these caverns, it is said those who descend into them are often lost, especially if their lights happen to go out. This we are told was the case of a certain adventurer, who had the good fortune however to stumble upon some animal that lived in these subterraneous apartments, which led him out through a natural passage in the rock, that opened into a thick wood at the foot of the mountain. Upon the discovery of this new opening, people flocked thither with their pick-axes, in order to dig in search of the supposed treasure, but instead of that, met with some fresh springs, which filled the whole place with water.





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* See Vol. X. p. 76. & seq.

The chief manufacture among the Kabyles and Arabs, Dr. Shaw informs us, is the making woollen blankets and webs of goats-hair for their tents. This work is done only by the women, who make no use of a shuttle, but conduct every thread of the woof with their fingers. One of these blankets is usually six yards long, and five or six feet broad, serving the Kabyle and Arab for a compleat dress in the day, and for his bed and covering in the night. They join together the two upper corners with thread or a wooden bodkin, and these being first placed over one of their shoulders, they afterwards fold the rest of it round their bodies; but it is a troublesome kind of garment, being frequently disconcerted and falling upon the ground, so that the person who wears it is often obliged to tuck it up, and fold it anew.

In most of the towns and villages there are looms for weaving blankets, and also the Burnoose, as they call their cloak or upper garment. This garment is of one piece, made narrow about the neck, with a cape to cover the head, and wide below like a cloak. The cape, however, is only occasionally made use of during a shower of rain, or in very cold weather. Some of these garments are fringed round the bottom*.

The

* Dr. Shaw thinks the Burnoose is probably the same with our Saviour's cloak, which (John
xix.

The girdles of the Arabs and Kabyles are usually of worsted, very artfully woven into a variety of figures, and made to wrap several times about their bodies. One end of them being doubled and sown along the edges, serves them for a purse, and they make a farther use of them, by fixing in them their knives, poniards, and inkhorns.

The Moors and Turks in general, with some of the richer clans of the Arabs, wear, upon the crown of their heads, a small hemispherical cap of scarlet-cloth, which Dr. Shaw takes notice of as another chief branch of their woollen manufacture.

The Turbant, which is a long narrow web of linen, silk, or muslin, is folded round the bottom of these caps, and distinguishes, according to the order and fashion of the folds, the several orders of soldiers not only from the tradesmen and citizens, but from one another.

The greatest part of the manufactures above-mentioned are consumed at home ; and it may be farther observed, that the inhabitants of Barbary send few of their commodities to foreign markets. Oil, hides, wax, pulse,

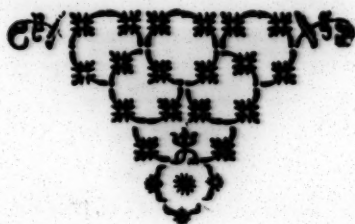
xix. 23.) ‘ was wove without seam from top to ‘ bottom ; ’ and with the cloaths of the Israelites (Exod. xii. 34.) wherein they folded up their ‘ kneading troughs, &c.’ as the Moors and Arabs do, to this day, things of like burden and incumbrance.

corn,

corn, are the general produce of the kingdoms of Algiers and Tunis; but the first are either in such small quantities, or so much wanted at home, that corn may be reckoned the chief or only commodity for exportation. Formerly indeed, seven or eight thousand tons of oil have some years been shipped off by our merchants from those kingdoms; but there is so great a consumption of oil among the natives themselves, that the Algerines will seldom permit it to be exported into Christendom. Greater quantities are produced near Tunis and Susa; but then the Moorish merchants alone are allowed to buy it, obliging themselves at the same time to dispose of it at Alexandria, Damietta, or some other ports of the Ottoman dominions.

There is an observation which Dr. Shaw mentions to the honour of the western Moors; namely, that they continue to carry on a trade with some barbarous nations bordering on the river Niger, without seeing the persons they trade with, and without having once broke through that original charter of commerce, which from time immemorial has been settled between them. The method is this: at a certain time of the year a numerous caravan sets out on this journey, carrying along with them strings of coral and glass beads, bracelets of horn, knives, scissars, and such like trinkets. When they arrive at the place appointed, they find, in the evening, several heaps of gold-dust, lying at a small distance from each other,
against

against which the Moors place so many trinkets as they judge will be taken for the value. If the Nigritians, the next morning approve of the bargain, they take away the trinkets and leave the gold, or else make some deductions from the heaps; and thus they transact their business without the least instance of dishonesty or perfidiousness.





S E C T. IV.

Particular Descriptions of the most remarkable public Buildings, and other singular Productions of Art in Barbary.

THE imperial palace in the city of Morocco has the appearance of a fortress, being surrounded by a ditch, and high walls, flanked with towers and other works. The walls have but two gates, both large and stately ; the one looking towards the country, the other towards the city. The royal apartments are covered with leaf gold, particularly about thirty halls, or rooms of state ; and the magnificent galleries leading from one to the other. The gardens are very beautiful, being adorned with fish-ponds, terraces, and every embellishment that is noble and delightful, in the Moorish taste. In the middle of this fortress stands a magnificent mosque, remarkable for its brazen gates, and other ornaments, particularly its high tower, on the top of which were formerly four golden balls, one above another, fixed on a strong bar of iron, which ran through them all. The lowest was the biggest, the second but half as big, and the other two lessening in the same proportion. The body of the balls was of copper, but plated all over very thick with gold, and all the four together weighed seven

VOL. XIII. E hundred

hundred pounds. They are said to have been set up by a daughter of the King of Gago, married to a King of Morocco, who is reported to have sold all her jewels to defray the expence of this whimsical ornament; which being done by the direction of some pretended conjurer, under a proper constellation, the superstitious people imagined it would be very dangerous and unfortunate to remove them; insomuch that one of their Kings having resolved to take them down to pay his troops, the people strenuously opposed it, offering rather to sell their wives and children to raise him money. However, Marmol tells us, that when he was there, Muley Hamed, more covetous than superstitious, caused the highest to be taken down, the gold whereof was sold to a Jew for twenty-five thousand pistoles, and the copper, being just gilt over anew, was put up again to suppress the murmuring of the people. The Jew, it seems, was found hanged on the tower; and it was given out that this was done by demons, who had the care of the balls: and Muley Hamed losing both his crown and life soon after, his misfortune was supposed to be owing to that covetous action. Notwithstanding this, the late Muley Ishmael ventured to have them taken down, and put into his treasury. This, with some other mosques, chiefly built of marble, and leaded on the top, a few colleges and hospitals, and a handsome bridge, is all that is left of the antient splendor of this city, which is run to such

such decay that many of the streets are quite uninhabited.

Among the vast number of mosques in the city of Fez, which some compute to be above five hundred, there are reckoned fifty of the first rank, all of them well built and endowed; one of which, according to Gramaye, is half a league in compass, and has thirty large gates. The Minaret or tower belonging to it is of a prodigious height, and supported by fifty stately pillars. The body of the building is covered with seventeen principal arches or roofs, besides a vast number of inferior ones, all of them together sustained by fifteen hundred large columns of white marble. A vast number of lamps, some of a prodigious size, are kept continually burning in this mosque; and the cisterns for people to wash in before they go to prayer, are said to be four hundred. It stands in the heart of the town, and is esteemed the largest and richest in all Barbary. Within the inclosure of this mosque there is likewise a stately college, and the public buildings of the city in general are beautiful and majestic.

Though the two last-mentioned cities are commonly reckoned the capitals of the two kingdoms, which make up the empire of Morocco, the residence of the imperial court is now at Mequinez, a considerable city about forty miles west from Fez, which is adorned with mosques, colleges, and other noble structures, but especially with the imperial palace,

which is as large as the town itself, and exceeds any thing of the kind in that part of the world. It stands higher than the city, is surrounded with thick white walls, and consists of a great number of courts, having within it two mosques with very high steeples, but none of the most regular structures. In one part of this palace is the Seraglio for the Emperor's wives, concubines, and their eunuchs; another contains the imperial apartments, halls of audience, &c. a third is allotted to the Emperor's artificers; and a fourth to the guards, magazines, artillery, &c. Every part forms a spacious square, and the whole structure is about three miles in compass. The galleries are finely adorned with Mosaic work and other decorations; the gardens, walks, pavements, alleys, &c. are kept very neat, and every thing appears suitable to the residence of a great Monarch.

The palace of the Bashaw of Tetuan, a city of the kingdom of Fez, is much admired by travellers, and seems worthy of a description. The entrance into this magnificent structure is through a cloister, which leads to a great square surrounded by a piazza, in the middle of which is a marble fountain. The pavement of the area, and of the piazza, is of Mosaic work; on each side of the square is one large room, and at each angle a square tower of a considerable height above the building, in two of which are stair-cases that lead to the grand apartments. In the third is a door that leads

to a mosque ; and in the fourth another, through which we pass into the gardens. On each side of the galleries above, which run over the piazza, are fine apartments for the Basha's wives, each apartment consisting of five rooms, one large room covered with a cupola, in the center of four lesser rooms ; and through these are doors that lead to the bagnio's of the women, and the lodgings of the female slaves. Both the doors and ceilings of the house are very lofty, and over the women's apartments are four noble terrace-walks, which overlook the town, a deep valley beneath it, and part of the Mediterranean. At the end of each terrace there is a turret with lattices, where the women sit to work, and can see all that passes without being seen. In the evening the ladies usually walk in the garden, where several of the walks are shaded with vines turned over in the form of arches, the walls of the garden being so high that they cannot be overlooked from any part of the town.

It has been observed, that the great mosque at Fez is looked upon as the most superb structure of that kind in Barbary ; but Dr. Shaw says, that one at Kairwan or Kairoan, in the kingdom of Tunis, is accounted the most magnificent, as well as the most sacred, of any in that country. The inhabitants told the Doctor, for a Christian is not permitted to enter the mosques of the Mahometans, that it is supported by at least five hundred granite pillars ; and yet among the great variety of columns,

and other antient materials employed in this large and beautiful structure, he could not be informed of one single inscription.

The method of building both in Barbary and the Levant, seems to have continued the same, from the earliest ages, without the least alteration or improvement. For as there is a near relation between the present Moorish buildings, and those that are occasionally mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, it is presumed that an account of the structure and contrivance of the former may contribute to the clearing up some difficulties that have arisen from not rightly comprehending the fashion of the other.

Large doors, spacious chambers, marble pavements, cloistered courts, with fountains in the middle, are certainly conveniencies, says Dr. Shaw, very well adapted to the circumstances of these climates, where the summer-heats are generally so intense. Besides, the jealousy, which masters of families commonly entertain, is less liable to be alarmed, whilst all the windows open into private courts, except sometimes a latticed window or balcony towards the street, which are only opened during the celebration of some public festival.

If we quit the streets of their cities, which are usually narrow, with sometimes a range of shops on each side, and enter into any of the principal houses, we first pass through a porch
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or gate-way, with benches on each side, where the master of the family receives visits and dispatches business; few persons, not even the nearest relations, having admission farther, except upon extraordinary occasions. We next advance into the court, which, lying open to the weather, is paved with stone or marble, according to the owner's ability, in order to carry off the water *. This court is made use of to receive large companies, as upon the celebration of a marriage, the circumcision of a child, or such-like occasions; and it is then covered with mats or carpets for their more commodious entertainment. It is likewise usual at these times to have the court sheltered from the heat or inclemency of the weather, by a veil, as the Doctor calls it, which being expanded upon ropes from one side of the parapet-wall to the other, may be folded or unfolded at pleasure †.

The court is generally surrounded with a cloister, over which, when the house has one

* There is something very analogous, as our author observes, betwixt this open space in the Moorish buildings, and the *Impluvium* or *Cava Edium* in the Roman architecture; both of them being alike exposed to the weather, and giving light to the house.

† To some covering of this kind, says Dr. Shaw, the Psalmist seems to allude, in that beautiful expression of 'spreading out the heavens like a curtain.'

or more storie, a gallery is erected of the same dimensions, having a ballustrade, or a piece of carved or latticed work, going round about it. From the cloister and gallery doors open into large chambers, of the same length with the court, but seldom or never communicating with each other. A whole family frequently lives in one of these chambers, which makes their cities so exceeding populous, that the plague always sweeps away great numbers.

People of better fashion hang the chambers of their houses with velvet or damask from the middle of the wall downwards, the rest being adorned with ingenious wreathings, and devices in stucco and fret-work. In such houses the cieling is usually of wainscot, either curiously painted, or thrown into pannels with gilded mouldings and scrolls of the Koran intermixed. The floors are laid with painted tiles or plaister of terrace; and as they do not use chairs, but sit cross-legged, or lie at length upon these floors, they have them constantly spread with carpets, sometimes very rich and beautiful. For their farther ease a row of damask or velvet bolsters is ranged along each side of the floor; and at one end of each chamber there is a little gallery, raised four or five feet above the floor, with a ballustrade in the front of it, where their beds are placed.

The stairs are sometimes in the porch, sometimes at the entrance into the court ; and when there is one or more stories, they are continued through a corner of the gallery to the top of the house, which is always flat, and covered with a strong plaister of terrace, from whence the rain-water falls into cisterns below the court. The terrace is surrounded by a wall breast high, or else with ballustrades or latticed work, to prevent people's falling down ; for upon these terraces they hang their linen to dry, prepare figs and raisins, enjoy the cool breezes of the evening, converse with one another, and offer up their devotions. By this means, when one of the eastern cities is built upon a level spot of ground, a man may pass from one end of a street to the other along the tops of their houses. Such is the manner and contrivance of the eastern houses in general ; from whence Dr. Shaw takes occasion to explain the case of the paralytic, said to be ' let down through the roof,' (Luke v. 19.) which circumstance has lately given great offence to some persons. This pretended difficulty the Doctor very learnedly removes, by shewing there is no necessity to suppose that a breach was made in the tiling, or any thing of that nature ; but that the patient was carried to the top of the house, and thence, after the veil abovementioned was drawn away, let down through the opening ' into the midst' (of the court) ' before Jesus.'

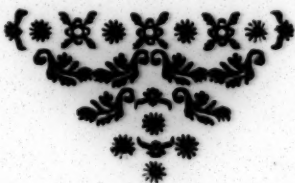
To most of these houses a smaller one is annexed, which sometimes rises one story higher than the house, and at other times consists only of one or two rooms and a terrace; whilst others are built over the porch, and, except the ground-floor, have all the conveniencies of the larger house. From these there is a door of communication into the gallery of the house, kept open or shut according to the master's discretion; besides another door, which opens immediately from a privy stairs down into the porch or street, without giving any disturbance to those in the house itself. In these back-houses strangers are usually lodged and entertained; in them the sons of the family are permitted to keep their concubines; and thither the men are wont to retire from the hurry and noise of their families, to be more at leisure for meditation or diversions.

With respect to the mosques of these countries, the Doctor tells us, they are built exactly in the fashion of our churches, but instead of using seats and benches as we do, they only cover the floor with mats, upon which they perform their devotion. Near the middle of a mosque, particularly the principal one of each city, there is a large pulpit, ballustraded round, with an ascent to it of about half a dozen steps. Upon these, for our author was informed that no person is permitted to enter the pulpit, one of their priests places himself every Friday, which they call the day of the congregation,

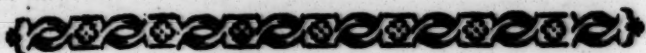
gation, and either explains some part of the Koran, or exhorts the people to piety or good works. There is a niche in that part of the mosque which stands towards Mecca, whither the people direct themselves during the whole course of their devotions; and this niche, as a judicious writer conjectures, represents the presence, and at the same time the invisibility of the deity. The mosques have Minarets or towers, which a cryer ascends at the appointed times, displays a small flag, and advertises the people with a loud voice of the hour of prayer.

Our author makes one observation farther with regard to the buildings above described, which is, that both the plaister and cement which are made use of, particularly where extraordinary strength is required, are, according to trial and appearance, of the same consistence and composition with those of the antients. Those cisterns, adds he, which were built by Sultan Ben Eglib, in several parts of the kingdom of Tunis, are of equal solidity with the famous ones at Carthage; continuing to this day, unless where they have been broken designedly, as firm and compact as if they were but just finished. The composition, says the Doctor, is this: They take two parts of wood-ashes, three of lime, and one of fine sand; which, after being well sifted and mixed together, they beat with wooden mallets for three days and nights incessantly, sprinkling them
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alternately with a little oil and water, till they become of a due consistence. This mixture is chiefly used in their arches, cisterns, and terraces ; but they use tow and lime beat together with oil only, without any water, to join the pipes of their aqueducts. Both these compositions soon grow as hard as stone, and suffer no water to pervade them.



S E C T.



S E C T. V.

Curious Remains of Antiquity in Barbary.

THERE are several remains of antiquity still visible in different parts of Barbary, which was antiently possessed by the Romans, Carthaginians, and other powerful nations. One of the places, now most remarkable in the kingdom of Algiers, for the extent and magnificence of its ruins, is Spaitha, the antient Sufetula, where there is still standing a magnificent triumphal arch of the Corinthian order. From this arch, all along to the city, which is about the distance of a furlong, there is a pavement of large black stones, with a parapet wall on each side. At a small distance from the end of the pavement, stands a beautiful portico, built in the same manner with the triumphal arch, which leads to a spacious court where we see the ruins of three contiguous temples, whose roofs, porticos, and fore fronts are broken down, but all the other walls, with their proper pediments and entablatures, remain perfect and entire. In each of them there is a niche, which fronts the portico; and behind that in the middle temple is a small chamber, which perhaps served for a vestry. Our author has given us a fine draught of these venerable ruins.

At a place called Jemme, in the kingdom of Tunis, there are several antiquities ; as altars with defaced inscriptions, a variety of columns, a great many trunks and arms of marble statues, one of which is of the Colossal kind in armour, another a naked Venus like the Medicean, both without heads, but apparently the workmanship of good masters. What this place is most remarkably distinguished by, are the remains of a spacious amphitheatre, consisting originally of sixty-four arches, and four orders of columns. The upper order, which Dr. Shaw supposes might be no more than an Attic, hath suffered by the Arabs ; and four arches have been blown up from top to bottom by a Bey of Tunis, in a revolt of the Arabs, who made use of it as a fortress ; otherwise, as to the outside at least, nothing could be more entire and beautiful. The platform of the seats and the galleries are still remaining ; and by comparing this with other antient structures, it seems to have been built about the time of the Antonines, agreeing exactly in proportion and workmanship with the buildings of that age.

Besides some antient cisterns and common sewers, there are scarce any tokens left of the magnificence of Carthage, the rival of Rome. We meet with no triumphal arch, says our author, or sumptuous piece of architecture ; no granite pillars, or curious entablatures ; but the broken walls and structures now remaining are either built in the Gothic manner, or according to that of the later inhabitants. Ad-
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joining to the large public cisterns, indeed, which were near the western wall of the city, we see the ruins of an antient and celebrated aqueduct, which may be traced to the distance of at least fifty miles. It has been a work of extraordinary labour and expence; and that part of it which runs along the peninsula, whereon Carthage was built, was beautifully faced with hewn stone. At Arriana, a little village two leagues to the northward of Tunis, several arches of this aqueduct are entire, which Dr. Shaw found to be seventy feet high, and the pillars that supported them sixteen feet square. The channel that conveyed the water lies above these arches, being vaulted over, and plaistered with a strong cement. A person of an ordinary size may walk upright in it; and there are holes left at certain distances, both for the admission of fresh air, and the convenience of cleansing it when necessary.

Over the fountains that supplied this aqueduct with water, there were temples erected, of which there are still some remains. One of them, which by its ornaments appears to have been of the Corinthian order, ends very beautifully in a dome, wherein are three niches, probably intended to receive statues of water-nymphs or other deities supposed by the antients to preside over fountains. The aqueduct however appears to be of much greater antiquity than the temple, having probably been a work of the Carthaginians; it being

difficult to conceive how Carthage could well subsist without such a convenience.

In the kingdom of Algiers, near a town called Shershell, lie the ruins of a large city, which, according to a tradition in that country, was destroyed by an earthquake. We may conceive no small opinion, says our Author, of its former magnificence, from the fine pillars, capitals, capacious cisterns, and beautiful Mosaic pavements that are still remaining. It was supplied with water brought by a large and sumptuous aqueduct, little inferior to that of Carthage in the height and strength of its arches; several fragments whereof, scattered amongst the neighbouring mountains and valleys, continue to be so many incontestable proofs of the grandeur and beauty of the work. There are two other conduits still subsisting, which furnished Shershell with excellent water from the mountains, and may be considered as two inestimable legacies of the antients.

Among the ruins of Tlemsan or Tremesen are found several shafts of pillars, and other fragments of Roman antiquities; and in the walls of an old mosque are a number of altars dedicated to the *Dii Manes*, but our Author saw but one legible inscription. Most of the walls of Tlemsan have been moulded in frames, and consist of a mortar made up of sand, lime, and small pebbles, which, by being well tempered and wrought together, is become
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equal to stone in strength and solidity. The several stages and removes of these frames are still discernible, some of them being a hundred yards long, and a fathom in height and thickness.

At a place now called Kasbaite, an old Roman city, there are many fragments of ruins and antiquities, and amongst the rest there is part of the portico of a small temple, dedicated perhaps to one of the Roman empresses, as Dr. Shaw conjectures from a broken inscription. A little to the southward are several sepulchral monuments, most of which have been beautifully carved into a variety of figures in Basso Relievo, who are represented mourning, offering incense, or performing some office to the dead; and below the figures lie the inscriptions.

All over a large knot of hills called Aurefs, lying to the southward of Constantina, are spread a number of ruins, the most remarkable of which are those of L'erba or Tezzoute, near three leagues in circumference. Here we find a great variety of antiquities; for besides the magnificent remains of several of the city-gates, Dr. Shaw observed the seats and upper part of an amphitheatre; the frontispiece of a fine Ionic temple dedicated to Esculapius; a large oblong chamber with a great gate on each side, intended perhaps for a triumphal arch; and a little beautiful Mausoleum, built in form of a dome, supported by Corinthian

pillars. These and other edifices of the like nature sufficiently demonstrate the once flourishing state of this city, which appears to be the Lambesa of the antients. Our learned Author has copied several Roman inscriptions found among these ruins.

Upon an eminence two leagues from the Hammam Meskouten, some noted springs already mentioned, there is a large extent of ruins, called at present Anounah, where the Doctor saw a small square building almost entire, which, by the figure of a cross still remaining on the door-case, may be concluded to have been a christian chapel.

Allegah, another ruined city, lies seven leagues from Anounah, and five from Constantina: and ten miles from Anounah there is also a heap of ruins called Seniore, with many others round this part of the country, which afford nothing very remarkable.

About Constantina, the antient Cirta, we meet with a great many remains of antiquity, particularly on a neck of land to the south-west, which is entirely covered with a series of broken walls, cisterns, and other ruins. Besides these, there are still remaining, near the center of the city, a set of cisterns about twenty in number, making an area of fifty yards square, which our author supposes received the water brought to them by a now ruinous aqueduct, the fragments whereof demonstrate

monstrate the public spirit of the people of Cirta in erecting a structure that must have required such an immense quantity of materials.

Upon the edge of a precipice to the northward are the remains of a stately edifice, at present occupied by the Turkish garrison. Four bases of pillars, seven feet in diameter, with their respective pedestals, are still in their places, and seem to have belonged to the portico. They are of a black stone, little inferior to marble, probably hewn out of the range of rocks on which they are founded.

The side posts of the principal gate of the city are of a reddish stone, as beautiful as marble, and very neatly moulded and pannelled. An altar of pure white marble makes part of a neighbouring wall, and on that side which is in view is carved in Relievo a well-shaped *Simpulum*, a vessel used by the antients in their sacrifices. The gate towards the south-east is in the same fashion and design, but much smaller.

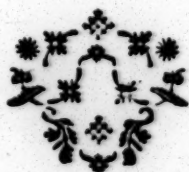
The bridge was a master-piece in its kind, having had the gallery and columns of the arches adorned with cornishes and festoons, ox heads, and garlands. The key-stones of the arches are also charged with *Caducei* and other figures; and between the two principal arches there is a well-executed bas-relief, representing a lady treading upon two elephants, which

which have their faces turned towards each other, and twist their trunks together. She has a large scollop-shell over her head, appears dress'd in a close-bodied garment like the riding-habit of our times, and with her right hand raises up her petticoats, looking scornfully upon the city.

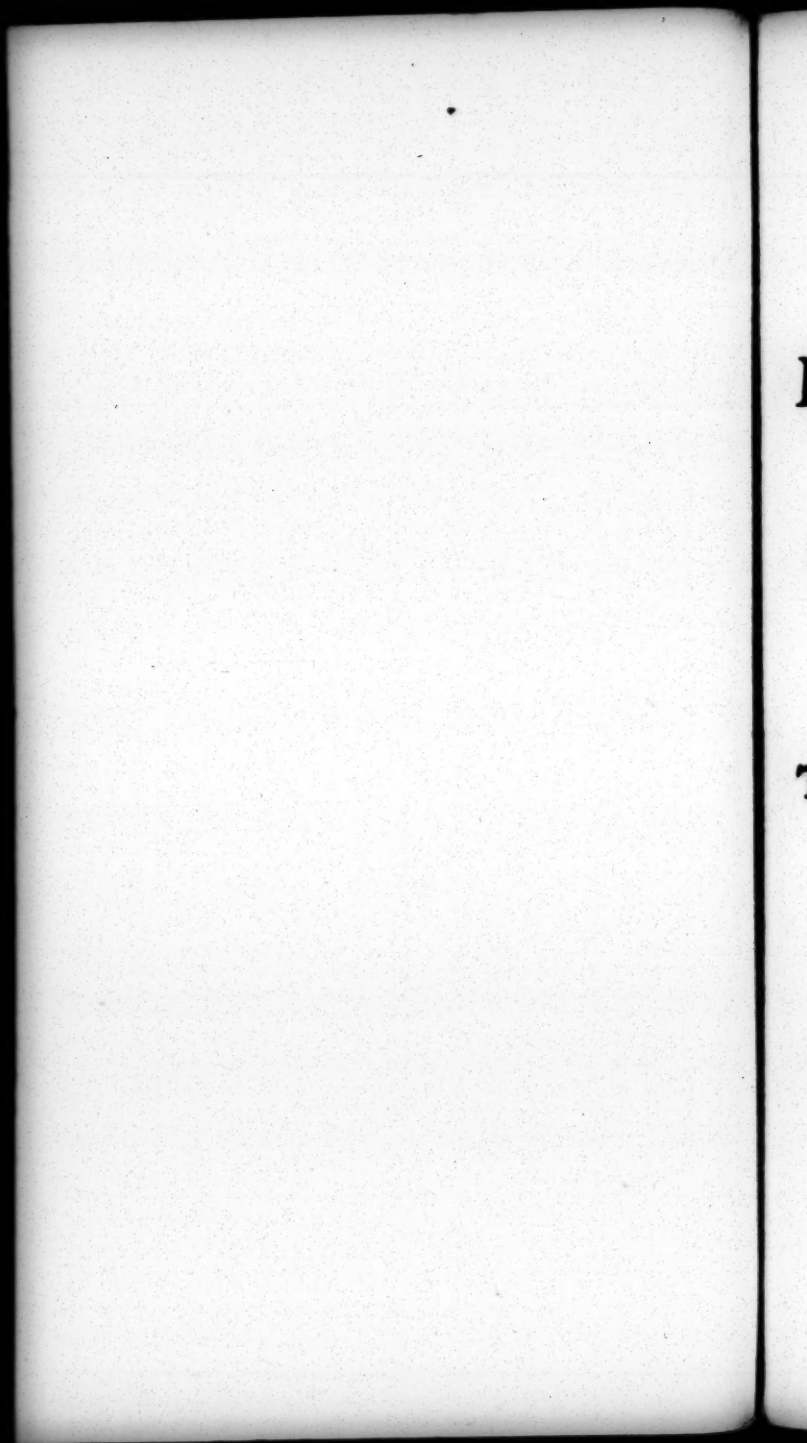
As to the city of Algiers itself, of whose antiquities the reader may perhaps expect an account, our Author, whose observation nothing seems to have escaped, tells us there are few to be met with in that city, and little that merits the attention of the curious. There are indeed, upon the tower of the great mosque, some broken inscriptions, but the letters, though sufficiently large to be seen at a distance, are all so filled up with lime and white-wash, that they cannot be particularly distinguished.

The other parts of Barbary, besides those which Dr. Shaw had the opportunity of viewing, especially near the sea-coast, are not destitute of antiquities, though they are not to be met with in any great abundance. We have therefore little to add on this subject from the kingdoms of Fez and Morocco, and so much the less as we have not the same excellent guide to conduct us through those countries. It may not be improper, however, to mention a curiosity of the antient kind, a few miles distant from Tangier, where there is a vast hole like a coal pit, many fathoms deep, which leads in-

to a great number of subterranean apartments, all lined with marble. These, from the many statues, urns, and old Punic inscriptions that have been found in them, were undoubtedly repositories for the dead, like the catacombs in Italy and Egypt; which having been sufficiently spoken of in their proper places, we need not enlarge upon those of Barbary.



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THE
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CHAP. III.
OF
NEGROLAND *and* GUINEA.

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C H A P. III.

Of NEGROLAND and GUINEA.

S E C T. I.

A general Account of Negroland and Guinea.

NEGROLAND is situated between 8 and 20 degrees of north latitude ; and between 18 degrees west, and 28 east longitude. It is bounded by a part of Guinea, called the kingdom of Benin on the south ; by Abyssinia, and Nubia, on the east, by Zaara on the north ; and by the Atlantic ocean on the west. Its greatest length from east to west is about 2000 miles ; and its greatest breadth, from north to south, is about 600 miles.

Negroland is by most geographers divided into fifteen kingdoms, of which the kingdom of Gualata, of Guber or Gubur, of Zanfara, of Ayzade, of Cano, of Burno, and Gaoga lie on the north side of the river Niger, which

runs from east to west through the whole country, and from which it is supposed to have been antiently called Nigritia.

To the south of the Niger is Guinea, containing the countries between the rivers Sanaga and Gambia, inhabited by the Jolloiffs, and Fuli's or Pholeys; also the country of the Melli, of the Mundingoës of Gago, of Zegzeg, of Guanguara, and of Casena.

On both sides of the Niger eastward is the kingdom of Tombut; and inland between the Niger or Gambia, north of the mountains of Guinea, are the kingdoms of Bito, Temian, Dauma, Medra, Gachom, and Biafara.

The principal mountains of these countries are a long ridge of mountains, which divides Negroland from Guinea, and reaches from the eastern to the western ocean, the whole breadth of Africa; and the principal rivers are the Niger, which also runs from east to west the whole length of Negroland, and rises, it is said, from the same source with the river Nile. Other great rivers of these countries, are the Sanaga, and the Gambia.

We are much in the dark concerning the inland parts of these countries, as we have already observed of Africa in general; for most of the knowledge we have is gathered from the reports of the natives, who are but poorly qualified either for descriptions or history. In
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that vast tract which our geographers have assigned to Negroland, there are a great many kingdoms and nations of different people, who are subject to absolute princes, but most of them tributary to the King of Tombut. In Guinea there are some sovereign princes, whose dominions are extensive, and whose government is arbitrary, being limited by no laws or any other restraints: and there are many more, to whom the Europeans have given the name of kings, whose dominions do not exceed the bounds of an ordinary parish, and whose revenues and power are very inconsiderable. But these are, in reality, all subject to some of the superior monarchs, and no better than their vassals, being obliged to attend them in their wars, to quarter their soldiers, and to submit to any kind of duties or impositions. The most powerful of these monarchs is the King of Whidah, who is very much feared and revered by his subjects. They appear in his presence either kneeling or prostrate on the ground; and they also prostrate themselves in the morning before the gate of his palace, kiss the ground three times, clapping their hands together, and using expressions more like the adoration of some deity, than compliments paid to an earthly prince. He has viceroys, generals, governors, and other officers, as European princes have, some of whom are permitted to eat and drink in his presence; but no person whatever is permitted to see his majesty eat, or to know in what part of the palace he

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sleeps,

sleeps, except his wives, of whom he has seldom less than a thousand.

The coast of Guinea is very unwholesome, which seems chiefly owing to the heat of the day, and the coolness of the night, whereby contrary effects are produced in the body, especially in those who are not accustomed to bear more heat than cold, by hastily throwing off their cloaths, and cooling too fast. A second cause is, that this country, particularly the Gold coast, abounds with high mountains, and in the valleys between them there arises every morning a thick, stinking, sulphureous damp or mist, which spreads itself in such a manner, that it is almost impossible for Europeans to escape the infection while they are fasting, their bodies being more susceptible of it than the natives. The great difference between the European air and this is so observable, that few come hither who are not at first seized with a sickness, which carries off a great many, chiefly because they are unprovided with what should comfort and nourish them, having no recourse but to corrupted medicines, and unskilful physicians.

Notwithstanding Guinea is so unhealthful for European constitutions, the natives have but few distempers. The small-pox is the most fatal to them of any, sometimes sweeping them away like a plague, as is the case in other warm climates. Another epidemical distemper is that of worms, which are found between the skin
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and the flesh in all parts of their bodies, but chiefly in the legs, and give the patient very great torment till they are extracted. The manner in which they are drawn out is this : When the worm has broke through the tumour it occasions, his head commonly appearing first, after they have drawn it out a little way, they fasten it to a stick, round which they wind a small part of it every day, till the whole be extracted, and the patient freed from his pain. If the worm happens to break, the torture is increased, the remaining part either rotting in the body, or breaking out at some other place. Some of these worms are said to be an ell long, and others much longer *.

Mr.

* We have an account that in Persia there are very slender worms, six or seven yards in length, which breed in the legs and other parts of men's bodies : and in the *Philosophical Transactions* we read of several remarkable operations, whereby worms were taken out of unsuspected parts of the body, the operators being chiefly women. Mrs. Mary Hastings is there recorded as famous for discovering worms hid in the face, gums, tongue, &c. which, with a goose-quill, she could take out of any part affected. Mr. Dent relates, that he himself was cured of certain tumours on his tongue by Mrs. French, who, piercing the swelling with a lancet, drew out five or six worms at a time ; infomuch that in eight days, he assures us, she took out of his tongue above a hundred worms, and thirty out of his gums. It is true, the ordinary place of worms is in the intestines, though there is scarce any part of the body but is

Mr. Francis Moore, several years factor to the Royal African Company of England, has given

sometimes infected with them; and as to those bred in the legs, the case is common enough among the Negroes, and very well attested. Mr. Smith, in his *Natural History of Nevis*, tells us, that his negro-man had a slender whitish worm that came gradually out of his leg, not far from the shin-bone at the rate of an inch or more every day. As it came out, he wound it round a very small piece of stick, that part of it immediately dying when tied fast with a piece of silk. His leg swelled and was very painful before the worm had forced its way through the skin, but then it grew somewhat easier; however, if by rubbing his leg against any thing the worm happened to break, his leg would swell again till the remainder of the worm came out in the same gradual manner, after which the sore was soon healed without a plaister. This worm was about a yard and a half long; but what is this, or even the length of those worms in Persia, compared to that of the Tape worm or Joint worm, which lies variously convoluted in the intestines, being sometimes as long as all the guts, and sometimes a great deal longer? Borrichius assures us, that a patient of his voided, in a year's time, eight hundred feet of this sort of worm, without coming to the head; for the patient always observed it to break off in voiding. Dr. Tyson himself had a patient who voided vast quantities of this worm for several years, in pieces from two to six or more yards in length, which all put together, he says, would much exceed the length of that of Borrichius. The joints in this worm are very numerous; for
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given us great light into those parts of Africa, which border on the river Gambia, to the distance of five hundred miles from the ocean. The different kingdoms, says he, upon the banks of this river, are inhabited by several races of people, Mundingos, Jolloiffs, Pholeys, Floops, and Portuguese; which last having settled there about the year 1420, have cohabited with the Mundingos till they are almost as black as they are; but they still retain a sort of bastard Portuguese language, and nothing vexes them more than to call them Negroes, that being a term which they use only for slaves. The Mundingos are the most numerous of these nations.

On the north side of the Gambia lies the country of the Jolloiffs, which is very large, extending even to the river Senegal. These people are much blacker and handsomer than the Mundingos, not having the broad noses and thick lips peculiar to the Mundingos and Floops. In short, none of the countries about this river can come up to the Jolloiffs for blackness of skin and beauty of features.

in a piece four and twenty feet long the Doctor counted five hundred and seven; and on each joint he observed a protuberant orifice, which he takes to be so many mouths, the best microscopes discovering no mouth in what usually passes for the head of the animal. It is frequently found in dogs, oxen, and several sorts of fishes. See Dr. Tyson's account of this worm in the *Phil. Trans.* N°. 146.

In every kingdom and country on each side of the river there are some Pholeys, a people of a tawny colour, much like the Arabs, who live in hords or clans, build towns, and yet are independent of the Kings in whose territories they live; for if they are ill treated in one nation, they break up their towns, and remove to another. They have chiefs of their own, who rule with great moderation; and this form of government goes on easily, the people being of a good and quiet disposition, and so well instructed in what is just and right, that a man who does ill is the abomination of all, and none will support him against the chiefs, or endeavour to screen him from justice. The natives here using very little land, the Kings are willing enough to give the Pholeys leave to cultivate as much as they please; and accordingly, though strangers, they are the greatest planters in the country. They are very industrious and frugal, and raise much more corn and cotton than they consume, which they sell at easy rates, and are very hospitable and kind to all; so that the natives reckon it a blessing to have a Pholey town in the neighbourhood. As their humanity extends to all, they are doubly kind to those of their own race; insomuch that if they know of one of them being made a slave, all the Pholeys will redeem him. Having plenty of food, they not only support the old, the blind, and the lame amongst themselves, but, as far as their ability goes, supply the wants of the Mundin-goes, great numbers of whom they have maintained

tained in times of famine. They are very seldom angry, and Mr. Moore never heard them abuse one another; though this mildness does not proceed from want of courage, for they are as brave a people as any in Africa, and handle their arms with great dexterity. None of them, except here and there one, will drink any brandy, or any thing stronger than water and sugar.

On the south side of the river Gambia, and but a little way inland, are the people called Floops, who are in a manner wild. They border close to the Mundingoes, and are bitter enemies to each other. Their country is of a vast extent, but they are under the government of no one chief; and yet such an union subsists among them, that the Mundingoes with all their forces, though very numerous, cannot reduce them to subjection. They have the character of never forgiving, or at least never suffering an injury to go unrevengeed; but then, to make amends, the least good office done them is always repaid by a grateful acknowledgment.

Four months in the year, Mr. Moore informs us, are unhealthy, and very tedious to those who are just come out of a colder climate; but the perpetual spring, where we commonly see ripe fruit and blossoms on the same tree, makes some amends for that inconvenience. The air is pleasant and refreshing, but it has something so peculiar in it, that keys will

will rust which are kept in the poeket. The rainy season commonly begins in the month of June, and continues till the latter end of September, or the beginning of October. The first and latter rains are generally the most violent; and it is observable, that the wind comes first, and blows excessive hard, for the space of half an hour or more before the rain falls, so that a vessel may suddenly be surprized and over-set; but however it may be seen a good while before it comes, for it looks very dismal and black, and the lightnings breaking out of these clouds, as they move slowly towards you, it makes the appearance very awful; the lightning flashing so quick as to make it continually light, and the thunder shaking the very ground. During the rains it is generally pretty cool, but when the showers are over, the sun breaks out with excessive heat, which induces some persons to cast off their cloaths, and lie down to sleep; but perhaps before they are awake comes another hurricane, and the heat strikes into their bones, which gives them fits of illness, especially the white men, for the natives are not so subject to catch cold. In the rainy season the sea-breezes seldom blow, but instead of them easterly winds right down the river; which in the months of November, December, January, and February, do commonly blow pretty fresh, particularly in the day-time. The most excessive heat is about the latter end of May, a fortnight or three weeks before the rainy season begins.

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As to the languages used about the river Gambia, the most general is the Munding, by which name the country as well as the people is called. If you can speak that language, you may travel from the river's mouth up to the country of the Joncoes, or Merchants, so called from their buying every year a vast number of slaves there, and bringing them down to the lower parts of the river to sell to the white people; which country Mr. Moore believes to be no less than six weeks journey from James Fort, which belongs to the African company, and is situated on an island in the Gambia, about ten leagues from the mouth of the river.

The next language mostly used in this country is the Creole Portuguese, which is so corrupted as to be scarce understood at Lisbon; but is sooner learnt by Englishmen than any other language in those parts, and is always spoken by the linguists who serve both the separate traders and the company. The Arabic is spoken by the Pholeys, and by most of the Mahometans on the river, though they have also a vulgar tongue, the Arabic being to them what Latin is to us in Europe. The Mundingoes have also a cant language, which is spoken only by the men, and is seldom made use of in any discourse but what relates to a dreadful bugbear, called Mumbo-Jumbo, by which the women are kept in awe. This stratagem being perhaps peculiar to these parts of

of Africa, Mr. Moore's account of it will doubtless be agreeable to the reader.

The Mumbo-Jumbo, says our author, is a kind of idol dressed in a long coat made of the bark of trees, with a tuft of fine straw on the top of it; and when the person wears it, it is eight or nine feet high. This is a thing invented by the men to keep their wives in subjection, who are so ignorant, or at least they are obliged to pretend to be so, as to take it for a wild man; and indeed a stranger would hardly take it for a human Creature, by reason of the dismal noise it makes, which few of the natives can imitate. When the Men have any dispute with the women, this Mumbo-Jumbo is sent for to decide it, which is always in favour of the Men. His authority is such, that he can order those about him to do what he pleases, either to fight, kill, or make prisoners; but it is to be observed, that nobody is allowed to come armed into his presence. When the women hear him coming, they run away and hide themselves; but sometimes he sends for them all to come and sit down, and orders them to sing or dance, just as he pleases; and if any refuse to come, they are brought by force and whipped. This bugbear never comes abroad but in the night-time, which makes it have the better effect. In the day-time the coat is fixed upon a pole near the town it belongs to, there being few towns of note without one.

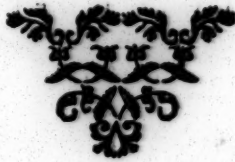
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When a man enters into this society, he swears in the most solemn manner never to divulge the secret to any woman, or to any person who is not a member of it; and none are admitted under sixteen years of age. The people swear by the Mumbo Jumbo, and the oath taken by it is very strictly observed.

About the year 1727, the King of Jagra, having a very inquisitive woman to his wife, was so weak as to disclose to her the whole secret of this mystery, and she revealed it to some other women of her acquaintance. This at last came to the ears of some who were no friends to the King, and having consulted upon the matter, and fearing they should not be able to govern their wives if the thing took vent, they took the coat, put a man into it, went to the King's town, sent for him out, and taxed him with it, which he not denying, they sent for his wife, and killed them both upon the spot. So the poor man died for obliging his wife, and the poor woman for her curiosity.

The river Gambia, says Mr. Moore, is navigable for sloops above two hundred leagues from its mouth, the tide flowing up to that distance from the ocean, which perhaps cannot be said of any other river in the world. The sides of it are for the most part flat and woody, for about a quarter of a mile inland, in some places not so much; and within that there are pleasant open grounds, which they use for

their rice, and in the dry season it serves the cattle for pasture. Within land it is generally very woody, but near the towns there is always a large space of ground cleared for corn. The soil is mostly sand, with some clay, and a great deal of rocky ground. Near the sea, and the lower part of the river, there are no hills to be seen ; but higher up are some lofty mountains, from the tops of which the prospects are very delightful.





S E C T. II.

A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of Negroland and Guinea, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; and of other natural Objects of Curiosity.

A N I M A L S.

Negroland and Guinea abound with elephants, lions, and many other wild beasts already described. The river-horse, crocodile, and alligator, are frequent in the river Gambia, together with a fish resembling a small alligator, called Guana, which is eaten by the inhabitants bordering upon the river, and is esteemed a delicious fish.

In these parts of Africa, as in most hot sandy countries, there are a great many snakes and other venomous reptiles. Mr. Moore tells us, that the natives are much afraid of the black snakes, which he himself has seen three yards long, and as big as the small of his leg. He was also told of several other venomous snakes, particularly some with a comb upon their heads, which they positively affirm to crow like a cock. This perhaps is what we call the Basilisk or Cockatrice, concerning which many strange things have been reported, that are now ge-
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nerally looked upon as fabulous. There are likewise snakes with two heads growing out of one neck ; but those our author says he never saw. He shot a green snake about two yards long, but in the thickest part not above three inches in circumference. This kind of snake, he was informed by the natives, is not at all venomous ; but they have so many that are so, that they seldom go without a remedy about them, in case they should be bit by any of these poisonous animals.

At a town about a mile from Brucee, Mr. Moore found a very large scorpion, being full twelve inches long. These creatures are reckoned very venomous ; and were a person to be stung by so large a one as this, our author believes it would be immediate death. He has known several people stung by small scorpions, which wound is so extremely painful, that for at least twelve hours the person stung cannot sleep ; but about that time the pain abates, and soon after is quite over. It is remarkable, that notwithstanding the violence of the pain, the swelling is very little.

Guinea hens and partridges are to be met with in vast numbers in these countries ; and it is worth observing, as Mr. Moore says, that the latter have sometimes two large spurs on each leg.

About Joar, and in no other place on the river, the same gentleman saw a remarkable bird,

bird, which only comes abroad in the dusk of the evening, having four wings, and about the size of a pigeon. But though this is called a bird by the natives, yet whether it is really a bird, or of the bat-kind, Mr. Moore does not pretend to determine; for he never saw one dead, though he has frequently endeavoured to shoot them. Mr. Stibbs tells us, that one evening he killed a large bird, which eat extremely well. It measured upwards of six feet from its toes to the extremity of its beak; it is called Gabbon by the Mundingoes, and Goff-real by the Portuguese.

Mr. Stibbs likewise informs us, that in his voyage up the Gambia they killed two wild geese and a duck; and that the geese have spurs as long as our cocks, growing out of the middle joint of the wings, with which they will beat a dog. They are larger than our wild geese, and their colour is black and white. The duck was of a peculiar kind, almost as large as the geese, and feathered like them, with small black legs, feet, and bill; and upon its beak was a black excrescence of flesh an inch and a half high. He adds, that they are fine fowl, and eat deliciously.

There are a sort of screech-owls, which in the night-time make a very dismal noise, and are taken by the natives for witches. If one of these birds happens to come into a town in the night, the people are presently all alarmed and fire at it as an enemy; and as they never

had the good fortune to kill one of them, they still continue to be witches in the opinion of the poor natives.

Several remarkable insects are found near the river Gambia, and other parts of Negroland and Guinea. Mr. Moore tells us, that during the time of a very dreadful tornado, a sort of large flies with long wings came on board a sloop in the river in such prodigious numbers, that flying into the flame of the candles, the table was soon covered with those that had burnt their wings; and others, which were not burnt, shed their wings as they walked along the table, and then were nothing but so many large maggots. The draughts of some of these African insects shew them to be curiosities in nature.

The Musquitoes, says our author, are the greatest plague to a person of any vermin on the river. They are even worse than some small flies, and from their minuteness called Sand-Flies, which are so little as hardly to be discerned. These, if any wind be stirring, are not able to bite; but the Musquitoes mind neither wind nor any thing else, giving a person continual disturbance, especially in the night-time. They may be compared to our English gnats, but are much more troublesome; when they bite, the part itches very much, and if you scratch it till it bleeds, you run the risque of having a sore; and when it

is healed, the place always appears of a blackish colour.

The Buggabuggs, as the natives call them, are a pernicious and destructive vermin wherever they get an entrance. Their way of travelling is to make a hollow pipe or tube of dirt, much like an arch of a vault, under which they march without being seen. They are a sort of white ants, and are very expeditious at their work; for in twelve hours they will make their tube, and travel eight or nine yards to get to a chest, box, or barrel. Wherever they get, they make strange havock, especially in woolen cloaths. In short, nothing comes amiss to them, for they feed as heartily upon wood as any thing else; and what is most remarkable, says our author, is, that they eat the inside only of a chest or table, so that when they have entirely destroyed it by eating the very heart and substance of the wood, it appears to the eye to be still sound. They cannot bear the sun, which seems to kill them for a time; but after sun-set they are observed to recover their strength and vigour. People are obliged to watch these creatures very carefully, and to take measures to prevent their coming to their chests, which is done by putting them on stands with the legs of them well daubed with tar; and if the tar be not spread over anew at least once a week, it is ten to one but these insects pay them a visit.

In the rainy season, says Mr. Moore, the frogs, of which there are vast numbers, and much larger than those in England, make as much noise in the night as a pack of hounds, and not unlike it at a considerable distance.

There is one curiosity which we shall take the liberty to mention under this article, tho' perhaps some people may think it not worth notice. Mr. Moore thought it remarkable, and accordingly tells us, that one evening he supped upon oysters which grew upon trees; and this he makes appear to be literally true. On the banks of the river, it seems, where the water is salt, and near the sea, grow certain trees called Mangroves, whose leaves being long and heavy, weigh down the bows into the water. To these leaves and branches the young oysters fasten in great quantities, where they grow till they are very large, and then they cannot be separated from the tree; but people cut off the boughs, on which the oysters hang somewhat resembling a rope of onions.

But of all the productions of these parts of Africa, perhaps none more deserves the attention of the curious than that we shall now describe. Some of the natives having got a net, Mr. Moore went along with them to fish in a lake over-against one of the factories, where they caught a great number of fish; and amongst the rest, one something like a gudgeon, but much larger. None of them cared to touch it, and persuaded our author not to
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come near it, telling him it would kill him. Some of them got long sticks, and touched the fish with them; but finding the effect not so bad as they apprehended, they cut the sticks shorter and shorter, and even at six inches length the fish had no effect. At last they ventured to touch it with their fingers, but could not bear it the twentieth part of a minute. By this time Mr. Moore understood it was a Torpedo, or Numb-fish, and had the curiosity to touch it with one of his fingers; but in a moment his arm was dead quite up to his elbow, which came to itself again as soon as he withdrew his hand from the fish. He repeated the experiment several times, and found it have the same effect, even after the fish was dead. He then ordered the fish to be skinned, and found that the benumbing quality lay in the skin only, which it entirely lost when dried.

This is the plain matter of fact, as Mr. Moore has related it; but as it is one of the most curious subjects in all natural history, we think it will not be disagreeable to enquire into the cause of such a wonderful effect. But let us first observe, that whereas Mr. Moore represents the Torpedo to be like a gudgeon, other authors speak of it as a flat fish, much of the figure of a thornback *, found commonly
enough

* It seems as if different sorts of fishes were endowed with a benumbing quality, there being no manner

enough about the coasts of Provence, Gascony, &c. and eaten by the people of those countries. And whether the surprising quality of the fish lies in its skin, as our author supposes, let the reader judge, after he has considered the following hypotheses.

There are different ways of accounting for the effect produced by touching the Torpedo. The first is that of the antients, who contented themselves with ascribing a torporific virtue or faculty to the animal, which is just the same as saying nothing at all. The second supposes the effect to depend on an infinite number of corpuscles issuing continually from the fish, but more copiously under some circumstances than others. This is the opinion most generally received, being adopted by Redi, Perrault, and Lorenzini, who thus explain themselves: As the fire emits a quantity of corpuscles proper to heat us, so the Torpedo emits a number of corpuscles fit to numb the part they insinuate themselves into, whether it be by entring in too great abundance, or by their falling into tracts or passages disproportionate to their

manner of likeness between the shape of a gudgeon and a thornback; and M. du Hamel, in his History of the Academy of Sciences, mentions a kind of Torpedo, which he compares to a conger-eel, a shape quite different from either of the former. M. Richer, from whom he has the account, affirms on his own knowledge, that they numb the arm strongly when touched with a stick, and even sometimes occasion a vertigo.

figures.

figures. The third account is that of Borelli, who looks upon this emission of corpuscles as imaginary, and says, that the fish, upon being touched, puts itself into a violent tremor or agitation, which occasions a painful numbness in the hand that touches it: but M. Reaumur, whose hypothesis is the last and justest, could never observe any such trembling, notwithstanding he viewed the fish with great attention when ready to strike the numbness.

This gentleman observes, that the Torpedo, like other flat fishes, is not absolutely flat, but its back, or rather all the upper part of its body, a little convex. Now M. Reaumur always found, that when the fish did not, or would not, produce any numbness in the person who touched it, its back preserved its natural convexity; but whenever it would dispose itself to resent a touch or thrust, it gradually diminished the convexity of its back parts, rendering them quite flat, and sometimes even concave. The very moment after this disposition the numbness seizes the arm, the fingers that touched are obliged to withdraw, and all the flat and concave part of the body is again seen convex: and whereas it becomes flat so gradually as to be perceived, the return to its convexity is so swift, that it is absolutely imperceptible. It is from this sudden stroke, according to M. Reaumur, that the numbness of the arm arises; for the person, when he begins to feel it, imagines that his fingers have been violently struck. The wonder is, how

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so soft a substance, as that of the fish, can give so rude a blow; and indeed a single stroke of a soft body could never do it, but in this case there is an infinity of such strokes given in an instant. To understand this, we must consider the mechanism of the parts whereon it depends, which are two very singular muscles, described by several authors. They are shaped like a half-moon, and both together take up almost half the back of the fish, the one on the right side, the other on the left. Their origin is a little above the mouth, and they are separated from each other by the bronchia, into the last of which they are inserted. But what is singular in them is their fibres, if we may give that name to a sort of smaller muscles as big as goose-quills, of an assemblage whereof the two great muscles are formed. These lesser muscles are hollow cylinders, their length nearly equal to the thickness of the fish, and ranged perpendicular to its upper and lower surfaces, accounting those surfaces as nearly parallel planes. These again are composed of twenty-five or thirty smaller cylinders placed over each other, and each full of a medullary substance.

Now we need only remember, that when the Torpedo is ready to strike its numbness, it slowly flattens the surface of its upper part; and the whole mechanism, whereon its force depends, will be apparent. By that gradual contraction it bends, as it were, all its springs, renders its cylinders shorter, and at the same
time

time augments their bases ; and in all probability too, the large fibres, or little muscles, at that instant lose their cylindrical form, to fill the vacuities between them. The contraction being made, the longitudinal fibres are lengthened, the transverse ones are shortened, and the soft matter they inclose is driven upwards, which is promoted by an undulatory motion apparent in the fibres when contracting. The parts of the Torpedo being thus disposed, a finger that touches it, instantly receives a stroke, or rather several successive strokes, from each of the cylinders to which it is applied. As the soft matter is distributed into divers inclosures, it is more than probable that all the strokes are not given precisely at the same moment ; nor indeed would they be so if there were no inclosures at all, but they serve however to augment the number of the springs, and consequently the velocity and force of the action. These quick reiterated strokes shake the nerves, and suspend or change the course of the animal spirits ; or they produce a motion in the fibres of the nerves, which clashes or disagrees with that they should have in order to move the arm, and occasions a painful sensation. Hence it is that the Torpedo does not convey its numbness to any considerable degree, except when touched on these great muscles * ; so that the fish may be safely taken by the

* Those authors who have accounted for the effect of the Torpedo from torporific effluvia, have
VOL. XIII. I been

the tail, which is the part by which the fishermen catch it.

As the Torpedo lives on other fishes, it is probable that its benumbing faculty is of use to it in catching them ; and this is the opinion of Pliny, Aristotle, and many other naturalists. M. Reaumur had no fish alive, to try whether the Torpedo would kill them ; but having shut up a drake in water with the fish for some time, the drake was taken out dead, doubtless

been obliged to have recourse to the same two muscles ; but then they only make them reservoirs of the corpuscles, whereby the numbness is effected. Lorenzini, who observed the contraction of the Torpedo, as well as Reaumur, pretends that all the use of it is to squeeze those corpuscles out of the hollow fibres of these muscles, wherein they are inclosed; but though this theory is admitted by most authors, M. Reaumur shews it to be false by the following considerations. 1. Because no numbness is conveyed, if the hand be at the least distance from the Torpedo ; whereas, to use their own comparison, if the fish numbs as the fire warms, the hand would be affected at a distance from the one as well as the other. 2. Because the numbness is not felt till the contraction of the muscles is over ; whereas, were the cause in torporific particles thereby expressed, the effect would be felt during the time of the contraction. 3. Because, if the numbness were the effect of such particles, it would be conveyed by degrees, as the hand warms by degrees. 4. Because the Torpedo conveys its numbness to the hand through a hard solid body, but does not do it through the air.

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from its too frequent contacts with the Torpedo. But what is still more strange than the Torpedo's killing of fishes, the history of Abyssinia speaks of its bringing dead ones to life again, they being seen to stir if put together in the same vessel. What is related in the same history is much more credible, viz. that the Abyssinians use the Torpedo for the cure of fevers, by tying the patient to a table, and applying the fish successively to all his members, which puts him to great pain, but effectually carries off the disease. Bellonius assures us, that the Torpedo applied to the soles of the feet, has proved successful against fevers; and Dr. James says, it mitigates the violence of the pain in an inveterate head-ach: but we suppose such instances very rarely occur.

V E G E T A B L E S.

THE Pholeys, who, of all the inhabitants of those countries, apply themselves most to husbandry, plant tobacco and cotton near their towns, which they fence in together. Beyond this inclosure are their corn-fields, of which they raise the four kinds usual all over the countries bordering on the Gambia, namely, Indian corn or Maize, rice, and the larger and lesser Guinea corn. They have no wheat, barley, rye, oats, or any other European grain: but they have a kind of pulse between the kidney bean and the pea, and yams and potatoes. The Indian corn they set in holes, three or four together, about four feet distant from each other, so that it grows like hops. It shoots up to the height of eight or ten feet, being a large cane, with the ears growing out of the sides. The rice, which they esteem their choicest food, they set in rills, as we do pease; it requires wet grounds, and its ears are like oats. The larger Guinea corn is round, about the size of our smallest pease. This they sow by hand, as we do wheat and barley; and it runs up to nine or ten feet high, though a small reed, the grain growing in a large tuft at the top. The lesser Guinea corn is sown in the same manner, and shoots to the same height; but the reed is larger, on the top of which the corn grows in a head like a bulrush. These are all of the bread-kind that are cultivated on the river Gambia; and, indeed the natives make

make no bread, except the women who are accustomed to Europeans, but use the flour of the several grains to thicken their liquids. The Indian corn they use mostly green, parching it in the ear upon coals, which gives it a taste like green pease. They chiefly boil their rice as the Turks do ; and they make flour of their corn by pounding it in wooden mortars.

The Palm-Tree in Negroland, perhaps a different species from any we have yet mentioned, Mr Moore describes to be a fine strait tree, growing to a prodigious height, some of them to sixty, seventy, or a hundred feet. From this tree the natives extract a sort of whitish liquor like whey, called Palm-Wine, by making an incision at the top of the trunk, to which they apply a pipe made of leaves, through which the liquor runs into gourd-bottles. This wine, says our author, is pleasant to drink as soon as drawn, being exceeding sweet, but apt to purge very much. In a day or two it ferments, and grows hard and strong, like Rhenish wine ; at which time the natives drink it in abundance, it being then no ways unwholesome. To see how nimbly the Negroes climb up these trees is very surprising, having nothing to assist them but a piece of bark made round like a hoop, with which they inclose themselves and the tree, and so setting their feet against the tree, and their backs against the hoop, they ascend very swiftly ; but sometimes they fall down and lose their

lives, either by missing their footing, or the breaking of the hoop.

What they call the Ciboia-Tree, seems to be another species of the palm, growing, like that, to a great height, and yielding a wine in the same manner, but not quite so sweet as the former. The trunk of this tree, as well as the palm, is very sappy when young, but very tough when old; and the leaves that grow on the top are of great service in covering of houses.

There is also a species of palm growing in those parts of Africa we are speaking of, which yields an oil called Palm-Oil, or Oil of Senegal, the name of a large river, supposed to be a branch of the Niger or Gambia. This oil, or rather ointment, which is of an orange colour and fragrant smell, is obtained from the pulp of the fruit, by adding to it a large quantity of boiling water, and stirring them in a kettle over the fire till they are intimately mixed. Then taking the kettle off the fire, they let the matter stand till its more solid parts subside to the bottom; and having skimmed off the oil that floats on the surface, they repeat the operation by pouring on it more boiling water. The oil is of the consistence of butter, and used as such by the Africans, who also burn it when old. In Europe it is esteemed a good remedy against cold humours, and is said to strengthen the nerves, give ease in pains



of the gout, remove weariness, and relax contracted parts.

Mr. Stibbs gives us a description of a tree called *Pau de Sangue*, or *Blood-Wood*, from a reddish gum which it yields, and which we suppose is the same that we usually call Gum Senegal, though Mr. Moore makes a distinction between them. This tree, according to Mr. Stibbs, grows plentifully all up the river Gambia, and is a hard wood, of a beautiful grain, and polishes finely, so that it is very proper for scutlions or inlaying. It does not grow to any great height or bulk, so that it is not easy to find one that will produce a plank fourteeth, fifteen, or sixteen inches broad. It grows generally in a dry rocky soil, on the sides and tops of hills; and when the wood is first cut, it has an agreeable smell. Upon wounding this tree, the juice sweats out in drops like blood, which joining together, and being dried by the sun, congeal into lumps. Mr. Moore has had some as large as pullet's eggs; but he gives no account of the tree's growing so plentifully near the river as Mr. Stibbs represents. It seems rather, according to Mr. Moore, to be found in great abundance about four days journey from Fataatenda, one of the company's factories on the Gambia, about five hundred miles from the mouth of the river.

As to the Gum Senegal, it is sometimes whitish, sometimes of a red colour, and imported to us in lumps, which are rough externally,

ternally, but clear and transparent within. It nearly resembles Gum Arabic, and the whitest and purest parts of it are used instead of that gum by the London apothecaries.

At Seaca, a small town on the Gambia, inhabited by the Portuguese, Mr. Moore tells us there is a large cotton-tree, about thirty yards in circumference. It grows out in spurs, which make it seem so bulky, the hollows and risings being taken into the measure; but, exclusive of the spurs, the circumference of the body of the tree would not be above fifteen yards.

The Banana-Tree grows plentifully near the river we have so often mentioned, bearing a fruit six or seven inches long, covered, when ripe, with a yellow and tender skin. Its leaves are two yards long, and about twelve inches wide; and the fruit grows upon a stalk about six yards high, each stalk bearing only one single cluster or bunch, which perhaps consists of forty or fifty bananas. When the bunch is gathered, they cut off the stalk, otherwise it would bear no more fruit. The pulp of the fruit is as soft as marmalade, and of a very pleasant taste; and it is said to be very nourishing, to excite urine, and provoke to venery.

The fruit of the Plantain-Tree is not much unlike the Banana either in taste or shape, only it is somewhat longer.

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Here are also Guava's, which resemble our peaches, only the outside is much rougher, and there is no stone within, but kernels less than those of apples. This fruit is reckoned an excellent medicine against the flux. Physical Nuts, and Tabacombas, are likewise found about the Gambia, the former of which contain three or four small kernels, whereof one or two are a purging-dose; but they are apt to vomit as well as purge, though they are frequently used by the natives. The Tabacomba is almost like a *Bon Chrétien* Pear, with a rind resembling that of a pomegranate. When it is ripe it opens of itself, the pulp appearing of a reddish colour, with large stones, and very insipid.

We shall conclude this article with the Guinea Pepper, from whence part of that country, where it grows plentifully, is called the Grain-Coast. Abundance of it grows likewise in America, where it is much esteemed; and it is now cultivated pretty commonly in France, especially in Languedoc. The shrub that bears it flowers in our gardens in August, and produces red pods about the latter end of September and October, in which the pepper is inclosed; but the plant perishes with the first frost, so that it is sown annually. The skins boiled, and used as a gargle, assuage the tooth-ach; and a cataplastm made of the seeds mixed with honey, and applied to the throat, is good for a quinsy; otherwise it is not much used in medicine.

FOSSILS.

F O S S I L S.

BOTH Negroland and Guinea have mines of iron, copper, silver and gold, though we are not certain whether many of them are wrought. Mr. Moore tells us, that the gold which the merchants bring down to the European traders on the river Gambia, is of a very good quality, and finer than the sterling gold. They bring it in small bars, thick in the middle, and turned round into rings, from ten to forty shillings value. These merchants are Blacks of the Munding race, and are called Joncoes. They are very unwilling to say much of the inland countries; and all our author could gather concerning the gold was, that it is not washed out of the sand, but dug out of mines in the mountains, the nearest of them at least twenty days journey from Cower. In the country where the mines are, they say these are houses built with stone, and covered with terrace, and that the short cutlasses and knives which they bring down with them are made there, the steel whereof is excellent.

As to Guinea, it is supposed to contain more gold than any other part of the world, there being great quantities of it washed down from the mountains, and found in the rivers. By violent rains and torrents, pieces of rocks are sometimes removed, and bits of this precious metal picked out of the clefts and cavities where it lay concealed; but much more is washed

washed down in little particles, no bigger than sand, into the rivers, which is called Gold-Dust, as the former is called Rock-Gold. The European merchants and factors never go up into the country to purchase gold, but the trading Negroes bring it to the forts and factories, and on board the European ships, great part of it coming two or three hundred miles or upwards. It is said the Negro merchants mix copper, and other ingredients of less value, both with the rock-gold and gold-dust, in which cheat they are exquisite proficients. The value of the gold brought from the Guinea coast, one year with another, by all the European nations that trade thither, is supposed to amount to three hundred thousand pounds sterling, or upwards; of which the English may import one third, the Dutch another, and the French, Danes, Portuguese, and Prussians, the remainder.

In the rainy seasons, after a wet night, the sea-shore is covered with people, mostly women, each having a couple of bowls made of calabashes, the largest of which they fill with such earth and sand as the floods have brought down from the mountains; and this they wash with many waters, often turning the bowl round, till the earth and sand be all washed away, except two or three spoonfuls at the bottom, which they carefully put into the other bowl; for the gold, if there be any, sinks to the bottom by reason of its weight. Thus they continue washing the sand till the small bowl

bowl is pretty well filled with the sediment, which they carry home, and search diligently. Sometimes they find as much gold as is worth a shilling, sometimes ten, and very often none at all.

On the south side of the Gambia, not far from the sea-coast, there is a Negro nation which F. Labat calls Balantes, in whose country the Portuguese imagined there were mines of Gold, because having bought some fowls of the Balantes, they found grains of gold in most of their gizzards. This induced the Portuguese to attempt the conquest of that country, and accordingly, in July 1695, they landed there without opposition; but being then the rainy season, they had such violent showers that all their arms and ammunition were spoiled, and the Balantes attacked them so briskly with their hassagayes and sabres, that they were entirely routed, and obliged to retire, leaving behind them a great number of their allied Negroes, with the best part of their baggage, arms, and ammunition.

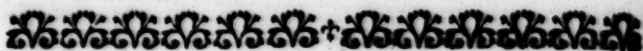
The same Father informs us, that in the country of the Saracoles there are several naked hills of a beautiful marble of different colours, but chiefly red, from whence it would be no difficult matter to bring it to Europe. He also mentions another mountain of red marble mixed with white veins, which are so bright and shining that they appear like silver.

This

This marble is so hard, that it is used instead of flints by the natives.

The natural salt, formed at the bottom of certain pools near the sea, is a curiosity mentioned by the same author. He reckons eight of these pools, wherein the salt is naturally formed at the bottom of the water, like a scaly stone; which being broke with long iron crows, the salt rises up to the surface, and the natives skim it off, and dry it in the air. Whatever quantity they take, it does not appear to diminish in the least; but the salt is not wholesome, being corrosive, and is only used to cure raw hides.





S E C T. III.

An Account of the most curious Arts, Manufactures, &c. of the Inhabitants of Negroland and Guinea.

THE Jolloiffs are said to make the finest sort of cotton cloth, and that in large quantities. The pieces are generally twenty-seven yards long, but never above nine inches wide. After the cotton is cleansed from the seeds, they spin it by hand, with the spindle and distaff, and weave it with a shuttle and loom, of very plain, coarse workmanship. Some of their colours are very lively, and these are either blue or yellow; the first dyed with indigo, and the last with the bark of trees.

The Negroes in general have few manual arts among them, which yet seems owing to idleness more than want of capacity. Those of Guinea are chiefly employed in matting of chairs, making wooden or earthen cups, copper ointment-boxes, and arm-rings of gold, silver, or ivory, with some other toys. Though their tools are very indifferent, they can make sabres and all sorts of arms they want, guns only excepted, as well as whatever is required for their agriculture or domestic uses. Their chief implements are a kind of hard stone instead

stead of an anvil, a pair of tongs, and a small pair of bellows, with three or more pipes, which blow very strong, and are an invention of their own. But their most curious manufacture is the gold and silver hatbands, which they make for the Dutch, the thread and contexture whereof are so fine, that they would not be easily imitated by our European artists.

The chief trade of Negroland and Guinea is in gold, slaves, elephants teeth, and beeswax. Of the gold of these countries we have already spoken towards the beginning of this chapter; and the same merchants that bring it from the inland parts to the factories on the river Gambia, bring likewise elephants teeth, and in some years slaves to the amount of two thousand, most of which are prisoners taken in war. The merchants buy them of the princes who take them; and their way of bringing them is to tie them by the neck with leather thongs, about a yard distant from one another, thirty or forty in a string, each of them carrying upon his head a bundle of corn, or an elephant's tooth. In their way from the mountains they travel through very great woods, where for some days they can get no water, but what they carry with them in bags made of skins. They use asses as well as slaves in carrying their goods, but no camels nor horses.

Besides the slaves brought down by the merchants, there are a great many purchased all along the river, perhaps a thousand one year with another. These are either taken in war, as the former, or people condemned for crimes, or else stolen, which is very frequent; but the African company's servants buy none of the last, if they suspect them to be such, without sending for the Alcade, a sort of judge, or the chief men of the place, and consulting with them about the matter. Since the slave-trade has been carried on, the natives have changed all their punishments into slavery; and there being an advantage arising from such condemnations, they often strain hard for crimes, in order to have the benefit of selling the criminal. Not only murder, theft, and adultery, but every trifling crime is punished in this manner.

Several of the natives have slaves born in their families, who sometimes grow very numerous; insomuch that all the inhabitants of a village near Brucoe, reckoned about two hundred people, are all the wives, slaves, or children of one man. In some parts of Africa they sell the slaves born in the family; but about the river Gambia they look upon such a practice with abhorrence. Mr. Moore never heard of more than one person that ever sold a family-slave, except for such crimes as they would have been sold for if they had been free. If one family-slave commits a crime, the master cannot sell him without the joint consent

sent of the rest ; for if he does, they will all run away, and meet with protection in the next kingdom.

We are told that not only criminals and prisoners of war are sold for slaves, but debtors also ; and sometimes the debtor's whole family and all his relations are included in the cruel sentence. It is likewise said, that men sell even their wives and children when they have offended them, whilst others lessen their families under an apprehension they shall not be able to maintain them ; and if a famine or great scarcity happens, they will sell themselves to one another for bread. One of the petty princes on the coast of Guinea is reported to have sold, on some small disgust, a score of his wives to a captain of a ship at once ; and in times of full peace nothing is more common than for the Negroes of one nation to steal those of another, and sell them to the Europeans. There have been instances also of children selling their fathers and mothers, when they have been weary of them, and wanted to enjoy their possessions ; which has occasioned a law in some countries, that children shall not inherit the goods or estates of their parents.

Another great article of trade in Negro-land and Guinea is ivory, or elephants teeth, which are got either by killing those animals, or picked up in the woods. It is a trade, followed by all nations about the Gambia ; for whoever kills an elephant, has the liberty of

selling him and his teeth; but those traded for in that river are generally brought from the inland parts of the country, and many of them by the merchants. As to those found in the woods, whether they belong to elephants that had been dead many years, or whether those animals shed their teeth, as some have conjectured, Mr. Moore was not able to learn; but this is certain, that they find teeth without any skull or bones fixed to them, which makes the conjecture not improbable. The largest tooth our author ever saw, weighed a hundred and thirty pounds; and the larger they are, it seems, the more valuable by the pound, for one tooth that weighs a hundred pounds is worth more than three that weigh a hundred and forty. Many of the teeth are broken-pointed, which lessens their value considerably; and some are white, and others yellow, but this makes no difference in the price. One part of Guinea is called the Tooth or Ivory Coast, from the great numbers of teeth found there, or brought thither from the inland parts to be sold to the European merchants and factors.

The next branch of trade on the Gambia is bees-wax, which is capable of great improvement. The Mundingoes make bee-hives of straw, of the same shape as ours in England; but they have a board at the bottom, with a hole in it for the bees to go in and out, and so are not placed on stands, but hung upon the boughs of trees. When they take the combs
they

they smother the bees, and having squeezed out the honey, of which they make a sort of wine, they boil up the wax with water, and press it through hair-cloths into holes made in the ground for that purpose. They make cakes of it from twenty to a hundred and twenty pounds weight, which the purchasers try by boring through them, those which are clearest from dirt being accounted the best.

There is another branch of commerce, which, if properly pursued, might prove of vast advantage to the nation in general, namely, the gum-trade; for there is a great deal of Gum Senegal imported in a year to England.

As to the buildings of Negroland and Guinea, it cannot be expected, that any thing very remarkable in that way should be found in countries inhabited by people, who have scarce any knowledge of the arts, either liberal or mechanical. If there be any good structures in those parts of the world, they are owing to Europeans, who have settled there for the sake of trade, and these buildings are chiefly forts and factories, in which we may suppose greater regard is had to strength and convenience, than to magnificence and ornament. James's Fort is a handsome square, stone structure, regularly built with four bastions. It stands on an island, in the middle of the river Gambia, where it is at least seven miles wide, and the guns mounted on the bastions command the river all round; besides which there are two batteries under
the

the walls of the fort looking towards the sea, on each of which are mounted four twenty-four pounders, and between these are nine small guns mounted for salutes. In the fort there are very good apartments for the governor, chief merchants, factors, writers, &c. and underneath some of them are excellent store houses. The soldiers, tradesmen, and other servants lie out of the fort, in barracks built, as the fort is, with stone and mortar. This is the principal settlement the Royal African company have upon the river Gambia.

The fort of the greatest consequence belonging to the English on the coast of Guinea, is called Cape-Coast-Castle, which was founded by the Portuguese, who settled there about the year 1610. It stands on a large rock jutting out into the sea, and forming a cape, which they called Cabo Corso. In a few years time the Portuguese were dispossessed of it by the Dutch, who enlarged and beautified it; and it was afterwards taken by the English, who have added much to its strength and grandeur. The parade, which is twenty feet perpendicular above the surface of the rock, is of a quadrangular form, and open on the east side towards the sea, which renders it cool, airy, and pleasant, affording a delightful prospect. On this side is a platform of thirteen pieces of heavy cannon; the other three sides are encompassed with buildings, containing many beautiful and spacious apartments and offices, together with a large well-built chapel, the back part where-

of

of joints to the wall of the castle, and the rock before it defends it from the violence of the sea. The gardens belonging to this settlement are very pleasant and large, being near eight miles in circumference; though they are not surrounded by any hedges or other fence, but all is called the garden, as far as there are any regular walks or plantations. They produce every thing that is natural to those warm countries, as oranges, lemons, citrons, guavas, plantains, bananas, cocoa-nuts, tamarinds, pine-apples, &c. besides several of the fruits and plants of Europe.

It would be tiresome to dwell any longer on this subject, which affords us nothing extraordinary; for as to the buildings of the natives, they are so many huts rather than houses, the walls being of mud and binding clay, and the roof covered with long grass or ciboa leaves, commonly called palmetto. They are generally fourteen or fifteen yards in circumference, and have very small doors, which do not turn upon hinges, but are let into the wall. A number of these huts built promiscuously together forms their towns, which at a distance look like so many bee-hives. The Pholey towns indeed are built in a regular method, the houses being ranged in strait lines, and at proper distances from each other, to prevent the spreading of fire; and thus they have good streets and passages, a thing which the Mundingoes do not regard. The Pholey's houses are kept very sweet, for they are a cleanly people,

people, especially the women. Their towns are surrounded with palisadoes, within which they have plantations of cotton, and on the outside of this fence they sow their Indian corn. They have also a place near each town for their cattle, in the middle of which is built a sort of stage about eight feet high from the ground, and eight or ten feet wide ; which is ascended by a ladder, and has a roof of thatch over it, but the sides are all open. Here four or five men sit up all night, with their arms, to guard the cattle from the lions and other ravenous animals. Numbers of stakes are drove into the ground in rings round the stage, and every evening the cattle are brought out of the meadows, and tied each to a stake, with a strong rope made of the barks of trees. They are so tame, and accustomed to this confinement, that they come to it without any difficulty ; and being milked in the evening, and again in the morning, they are turned loose into their pastures, where they are watched by herdsmen to prevent their getting into the corn, or running into the woods. These Pholeys understand very well the breeding and managing of cattle, and are almost the only people high up the river of whom beasts can be purchased.



This is a detailed historical map of the Atlantic Ocean, oriented with North at the top. The map shows the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and the surrounding continents of North America, South America, Europe, and Africa. Key features include:

- Geographical Labels:** The map is labeled with "NORTH SEA", "ATLANTIC OCEAN", "WEST INDIES", "TERRA FIRMA", "AMAZONIA", "SOUTH AMERICA", "BRASIL", "PARAGUAY", "SOUTHERN OCEAN", "AFRICA", "EUROPE", "IRELAND", "ENGLAND", "FRANCE", "SPAIN", "PORTUGAL", "LION", "LONDON", "BRISTOL", "DUBLIN", "YORK", "EDINBURGH", "GLASGOW", "BIRMINGHAM", "MANCHESTER", "LIVERPOOL", "BIRMINGHAM", "MANCHESTER", "LIVERPOOL", "BIRMINGHAM", "MANCHESTER", "LIVERPOOL".
- Latitude and Longitude:** The map includes a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Latitude lines are marked at 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 degrees North and South. Longitude lines are marked at 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 degrees West. The "Tropic of Cancer" is shown as a dashed line.
- Islands and Archipelagos:** The map shows numerous islands and archipelagos, including the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands, the Caribbean Islands, and the Falkland Islands.
- Coastal Features:** The map shows the coastlines of the continents, with labels for major cities and ports. In North America, cities like New York, Boston, and Philadelphia are marked. In South America, cities like Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Recife are marked. In Europe, cities like London, Paris, and Lisbon are marked. In Africa, cities like Cape Town and Mozambique are marked.
- Map Style:** The map is a black and white engraving, typical of 18th-century cartography. It features a decorative border and a title "ATLANTIC OCEAN" in large, bold letters.

J. Gibson Sculpt.

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THE
B E A U T I E S
O F
NATURE AND ART
D I S P L A Y E D,
I N A
TOUR through the WORLD.

C H A P. IV.

O F
ABYSSINIA, *or* ETHIOPIA.



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C H A P. IV.

Of A B Y S S I N I A, *or* E T H I O P I A.

S E C T. I.

A general Account of Abyssinia, or Ethiopia.

A B Y S S I N I A, or Ethiopia, comprehending Nubia and the coast of Abex, is situated between 20 and 42 degrees east longitude, and between 6 and 25 degrees of north latitude. Its greatest length from west to east, is about 1320 miles, and its greatest breadth from north to south is about 1100 miles. Abyssinia or Ethiopia in general is a very large division of Africa, almost wholly situated in the Torrid Zone, having Egypt and the Desart of Barca on the north, the Red Sea on the north-east, Negroland and Guinea on the west, and on all other sides the Ethiopic ocean. It is divided into two parts, the Upper and the Lower. The Upper is the north and east part of Ethiopia in general, comprehending Nubia, Abyssinia, the country of the Giaques or Galles, and the coast

of Abex, Ajan, and Zanguebar, and was antiently called Ethiopia Interior. The Lower or Exterior is the south and west parts of Ethiopia in general, containing the kingdoms of Monoemugi and Monomotapa, the great regions of Biafara, Loango, Congo, Angola, and in short all the kingdoms and countries from the Equinoctial to the Cape of Good Hope.

The antient and celebrated kingdom or rather empire of Abyssinia is sometimes called Ethiopia Proper, and has been likewise much talked of under the title of the States of Prester John *, though, as some think, very absurdly.

This

* This title seems to have been given to the monarchs of Abyssinia on the following account. There was an antient race of Christian princes in Proper Tartary, who bore the title of Prester or Presbyter John, as it was corrupted by the Europeans, though chiefly owing to an epithet which one of the first of those monarchs either took of Prestigian, or was complimented with by his subjects, that word properly signifying apostolical or orthodox, but which in its carriage to Europe had been changed into Prester John, on a supposition that he was a priest as well as king. The fame of this monarch was become so great in the time of John the Second, King of Portugal, that he sent Peter Covillan, to make enquiry after him in India; but as he could hear nothing of such a prince there, and being informed there was a potent Christian emperor in Africa, he made that country in his way home; where he was so kindly received

This empire was formerly much more extensive than it is at present, though even now it is a vast country, the several parts whereof are governed by proper viceroys, who have different titles. The extreme heat, to which the country is subject, is chiefly felt in the plains and valleys, whilst the ridges of mountains, most of which are of a prodigious height, enjoy a delightful coolness; insomuch that Father Tellez assures us, there are some parts of the country where the summers are less sultry than in Portugal. This difference of heat and cold indeed between the high and low lands is attended with such thunder and lightnings as are terrible both to man and beast, and often do a great deal of mischief. The rains, when they descend, do not fall in drops, as with us, but sometimes pour down with such vehemence, that they carry off trees, houses, and even rocks before them, whilst the rivers overflow and lay the country under water. The winds are sometimes no less dreadful than the rains and thunder; and the country is subject

ceived by the then reigning emperor, that he took it for granted he had found out the monarch so much sought after, though he could hear of nothing like the title of Prester John. This point hath been since much controverted among the learned abroad, some affirming the Abyssinian empire to be the real Prester John's country, and others treating the notion as absurd and chimerical; however, we shall not enter into the dispute, as being a matter of more curiosity than moment.

to one in particular, which is rather a hurricane, and in their language is called Sengo, or Serpent. This is often so violent as to overturn trees, houses, and almost every thing in its way ; but it in some measure makes amends for this mischief, by clearing the air of the lower grounds, which would otherwise stagnate and prove infectious, as they find by experience.

The whole country is intersected, or rather covered with mountains, between which are such dreadful precipices as one cannot behold without horror ; but some of the mountains have large plains at the top, covered with trees and other verdure, and afford springs of excellent cool water ; and others are well cultivated, though the access to them is exceeding difficult and hazardous. The mountains of Amhara are of a vast height, particularly that called Amba Geshen, which is rocky, and every way inaccessible but by two narrow paths cut into the rock ; but the top of it produces all that is necessary for life or delight. According to Tellez, this mountain is shaped like a castle ; the top of it is half a league wide, and the bottom about half a day's journey in circumference. Amongst the mountains of Gojame we are told of a vast hollow rock, opposite to which stands another so situated, that a word only whispered on the top, is heard at a great distance, and the joint voices of several persons speaking at once, sound as loud as the shout of a numerous army.

The

The face of Nubia, as well as Abyssinia, is very much overspread with mountains.

The churches in the mountains of Abyssinia cut out of the solid rock, are mentioned by some writers as a great curiosity. It is said they are ten in number, and that an exact proportion is observed in the gates, windows, pillars, arches, and all other parts, so that the whole appears elegant and regular; and it is affirmed they were all perfected within the space of four and twenty years. It is to be observed however, that the rocks, out of which these churches are so curiously hewn, are of a soft nature; and it is not unlikely that some of them had part of their form beforehand, since there are many rocks in this country of different figures, so exact that they seem to have been cut with a chissel. We are told that the workmen employed in this curious performance were sent for from Egypt.

As to Congo, Angola, Benguela, Monoe-mugi, Monomotapa, the coast of the Cafres, and all that part of Africa from the Equinoctial to the Cape of Good Hope, we need only say in general that the soil is various, and the country inhabited by various sorts of people, with most of whom, except those on the coasts, we have very little acquaintance.



S E C T. II.

A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of Abyssinia, or Ethiopia, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; and of other natural Objects of Curiosity.

A N I M A L S.

IN treating of the Indian islands we mentioned an animal called Oran Outang, as approaching nearly to the human race in its manner of walking, shape, and sagacity. This we apprehend is the same creature that some authors describe under the name of the Pigmy, or Chimpanzee, and which is found in Angola, and other parts of Africa, a country abounding with apes, monkeys, and baboons, whereof the Pigmy seems to be a very singular species. The Oran Outang indeed, or Wild Man, is represented as much taller than the Pigmy; but the account that travellers give us of the former, are so imperfect and uncertain, that we suppose they are one and the same animal under different names.

That there is some such creature in Africa, is scarce to be disputed; for Mr. Moore tells us, that as he was walking about a quarter of a mile from one of the African company's factories, he found the foot of a beast, the carcass

cass having been devoured, as he imagined, by a lion. It appeared to have been newly killed, and was covered with hair about an inch long; in shape resembling the foot of a baboon, but as big as that of a man. Mr. Moore carried it home, and examining some of the natives about it, they told him it was the foot of what they called a Wild Man; that there are many of them in that country, but that they are seldom found; that they are as tall as a man, have breasts like a woman, use a sort of language, and walk upright like human creatures *.

The Pigmy or Chimpanzee, dissected many years ago by Dr. Tyson, was brought from Angola, and measured from the top of the head to the heel twenty-six inches. The thickest part of his body was sixteen inches round, and the length of the arm was seventeen inches

* Some pretend that the Savage Man is peculiar to the island of Borneo, where the hunting of him is esteemed a princely diversion. He is said to be six feet high when at full growth, to have arms somewhat longer than a man's, and to be very strong and nimble. Captain Beckman says, he bought one of these animals, and that he was a great lover of punch and brandy, insomuch that, if he had an opportunity, he would open the Captain's case, drink heartily, and put the bottle in its place again; but if his master was angry with him, he would sigh and whine till he was reconciled. He would lay himself down to sleep as a man does; and though he was very young when he died, he was stronger than any man in the ship.

from

from the shoulder to the end of the fingers. The face of this creature is more like a man's than the face of an ape or a monkey is, and its head is as big again as either of theirs, but the nose is much alike in both. The ears, for size, colour, and structure, are entirely like those of a man, as well as the teeth; but it has no eye-brows, though hair grows on the eyelids. Its breasts are small, and not protuberant; but the two nipples, which are very apparent, are exactly situated as they are in men. It has hair in the arm-pits; and all behind, from the head downwards, the hair is so thick as almost to prevent the skin from being seen; but in all parts before it is much thinner. The palms of its hands and the soles of its feet are of an equal length, and longer in proportion than those of men. Its toes are as long as its fingers, the middlemost toe being longer than the rest; and the great toe, like the thumb, is set off at a distance from the others. The navel appears very fair, in the exact place, and in all respects the same as it is in man.

In the year 1738, if we are rightly informed, Capter Flower brought over a female Pigmy from Angola, which was two feet four inches high, had a face like a man, and was pretty fair, except on the chin, where a few straggling hairs appeared. Its nose was small and flat like that of an ape, its mouth about two inches and a half wide, and its teeth shaped like human teeth, but neither very white nor sound. The hair on its head was an inch or
more

more in length, and its back parts were pretty hairy, but on its breasts and belly the hair was much thinner. Its feet were entirely bare on the inside, as were also the hands both on the inside and outside.

This creature walked erect, was extremely fond of persons it was used to, and even knew how to behave with good manners at the tea-table. It would fetch its little chair, and sit down as naturally as any of the company ; and if the tea were too hot, it would pour it into the saucer to cool ; with abundance of such seemingly rational actions, which were diverting and surprising to the spectators. Its food was chiefly potatoes, bread, milk, nuts, apples, and raw onions, which last it greedily devoured, shewing an aversion to all kinds of flesh, except now and then a bit of rabbit or chicken. It lived in England about six months, and being opened after its death, it was found to have died of a confirmed jaundice.

Several antient authors take notice of a fierce kind of wild bulls that are found in Ethiopia, much larger than our tame ones, and which prey upon other animals. Agatharchides, who lived near two hundred years before Christ, is the first who mentions and describes this voracious bull, and Diodorus Siculus, Pliny, and Ælian, seem all to have copied his description. " There are very fierce wild bulls in Ethiopia, " says Pliny, larger than tame ones, and swifter " than any other animal, of a deep yellow " colour,

“ colour, with blue eyes, and their hair in-
 “ verted, with a mouth that opens to their
 “ ears, and moveable horns ; their skin is as
 “ hard as a flint, and invulnerable ; and they
 “ hunt down all other wild beasts.” Diodorus
 adds, that his eyes shine in the night ; that
 after he has killed other beasts . . . devour
 them ; and that when he attacks herds of
 cattle, he is neither terrified by the herdsmen
 nor the number of their dogs. Ludolphus, in
 his History of Ethiopia, affirms, that there are
 bulls in that country of an uncommon size,
 twice as large as those in Hungary and Russia;
 and the letters of the Jesuits frequently mention
 the largeness of the Abyssinian oxen. Father
 Bernier, in his account of the Great Mogul’s
 country, tells us, that among several presents
 which two Ethiopian ambassadors presented to
 Aurengzeb, there was a prodigious large horn
 of a bull, full of civet, which he measured,
 and found the basis or thick end six inches in
 diameter.

From these and other authors it appears,
 says Sir Hans Sloane, in the Philosophical
 Transactions, that there is in Ethiopia, and
 probably in the midland parts of Africa, where
 travellers seldom come, a very large animal of
 the ox kind, at least twice as big as our bulls
 or oxen, with horns proportionably large, but
 otherwise differing from them in several re-
 spects. The accounts the antients give of this
 creature perhaps are not without some fabulous
 additions ; and therefore it were to be wished
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the modern writers who mention it had given us a satisfactory description of it, which none of them have done ; unless we suppose it to be the same with the Sukatorio or Sukotyro, which Nieuhoff describes to be of the size of a large ox, with a snout like a hog, two long rough ears, and a thick bushy tail : its eyes are placed upright in the head, quite different from other animals ; and on the side of the head, near the eyes, stand two long horns, or rather teeth, not quite so thick as those of the elephant.

A very large pair of horns were found some years ago in a cellar or warehouse at Wapping, where they had suffered much by worms and otherwise, their surfaces being eaten in several places. They were not round, but flattish, and almost strait for a considerable length ; but then turning crooked, they ran tapering to a point. They were both exactly of the same dimensions, but the length of them was about six feet and a half, measuring the outer circumference, and the diameter of their basis about seven inches. Each of them weighed near two and twenty pounds, and the cavity of one of them contained five quarts of water. These horns Sir Hans Sloane supposes to have belonged to the large Ethiopian bull or cow *, of which the
authors

* Gesner speaks of a very large horn, which was hung by a chain to a pillar in the cathedral of Strasburg, and which was probably of the same
sort

authors abovementioned have given us such imperfect accounts; and he thinks it very likely, that when the English had a great commerce at Ormus, they were brought thither from some neighbouring country, and afterwards carried over to England by some curious person.

After all, it is possible the horns in question were no other than those of a large buffalo; for the commander of an East India merchant-ship told Sir Hans he had seen such on a buffalo's head in the Indies: and this is the more likely, as we are told that the buffaloes of Africa much exceed those of Europe in bigness. They are of a brownish red colour, and their hides are so hard and tough as scarce to be penetrated by a musquet ball. It is said they will run with great fury at the person who fires at them, whatever obstructions may be in their way.

The Camelopardal is an animal found in some parts of Ethiopia, being so called as partaking both of the camel and the panther. Its legs are so long that a man may stand upright under its belly, and its neck is long in pro-

port with these here described. He says, its outer circumference measured four Roman yards in length; and he conjectures it to have been the horn of an old Urus, a beast like a bull, which was hung up there for its prodigious size, perhaps two or three hundred years before his time.

portion, in order to reach the ground to graze; so that when the creature walks with its neck erect, the head appears a great height above its body. It has a slender tail, two little horns, a small mouth, but a very long tongue; and its two fore legs are longer than the hinder. The beast loves solitude, keeping continually in the woods; and, if taken young, is exceeding tractable. Its flesh is good meat, and its skin, which is spotted like a panther, is very valuable.

But perhaps there is not a more curious animal in Echiopia than what the natives call Zecora or Zebra, but the Europeans have given it the name of an ass, though it resembles that creature in nothing but the length of its ears, being well shaped, lively, and of the size of an ordinary saddle-horse. His hair is soft and sleek, and along the ridge of his back runs a black streak from his mane to his tail; and down each side, from his back to his belly fall several streaks of various colours, black, white, yellow, forming so many circles round his body; and his head, ears, legs, mane, and tail, are variegated in the same elegant manner. He is thought to exceed a horse in swiftness, and such of them as are taken alive are sold at an excessive price; but there is no instance of their being broke for the saddle, or any other use: it is their beauty, and the difficulty of taking them, that makes them so much esteemed. M. Thevenot saw one of these beautiful creatures at Cairo, which was brought by an Abyssinian

finian ambassador as a present for the Grand Signior.

The Civet Cat is one of the most remarkable animals of Ethiopia, but we need say nothing of it here, having given a sufficient account of it already *. The other quadrupeds found in this part of Africa are lions, tygers, leopards, panthers, elks, porcupines, and many more, which are either so well known as to require no description, or have been taken notice of as we met with them in other countries. The wild beasts about the Cape frequently make great havock among the cattle, of which there are large herds in all the Dutch settlements, besides those that belong to the Hottentots. The tyger, it is said, kills great numbers at a time, for the sake of sucking their blood, not much regarding the flesh; and there is a kind of wild dogs that will sometimes worry a whole flock of sheep, if they happen to get in amongst them. But it is observed of the lion, that he contents himself with carrying off a single carcass, without doing any farther mischief. This however is not agreeable to Mr. Maxwell's account, who tells us, that when a lion in the night-time gets in among the cattle, he commonly kills more than he eats at that time, and seldom fails to return the following night to eat up the rest; but before he comes, they take care to set snares about the prey, with muskets disposed in such a manner that the lion must

* See Vol. XI. p. 72.

neces-

necessarily draw the triggers, and the muzzles are so planted that the balls seldom miss him. If he is not killed outright, he wreaks his fury on the muskets, gnawing the stocks, and imprinting the marks of his teeth on the very iron. Sometimes, though he is able to retire, he will watch two or three days to see who comes to look after the execution, and will attack the person if he has an opportunity. At the Cape the Dutch give twenty dollars reward for killing a lion, and ten for a tyger.

Among the various species of the feathered race that are to be met with at the Cape and in other parts of Africa, the Flamingo is one of the most remarkable. It is a beautiful fowl, as large as a swan, having a head and neck as white as snow, but the upper part of the wings and most of the body is of a fine flame-colour, and the lower part of the wings is black. It is web-footed like a goose, and its legs are red and longer than those of a heron. They get their food in ponds and rivers in the day-time, and at night retire to the hills. They are frequently killed by Europeans at the Cape, their flesh being esteemed very good.

There are many sorts of fowls about the Cape to us entirely unknown, besides others that are common in Europe. They have abundance of wild peacocks, and white shovelers as big as a hen, with a neck in two or three joints; also three sorts of herons, some blue, others white, and others black. There are likewise ostriches,

ostriches, several kinds of hawks, pheasants, and partridges, white ravens, and white lapwings. The sea near the Cape abounds with variety of fish, particularly crabs, lobsters, and oysters of a large size ; and the turtle or tortoise is also found on that coast. The rivers are frequented by Manatees or sea-cows, which are low, thick, and ill-shaped, with very short feet, and yet run swiftly. They have no hair but what grows about their nostrils ; and though they have large teeth, they are not mischievous. They are very shy, and not easily wounded.

They have great variety of serpents about the Cape, some of them very large, particularly an ash-coloured asp, speckled with red and yellow spots, having a broad head and neck, and a fleshy protuberance near the eyes about the bigness of a hazle-nut. Another is called the Eye-Serpent, from the light spots on his black skin, which appear like eyes ; and there is a sort called the Tree-Serpent, from winding itself round the branches of trees, which it so resembles in colour, that men are frequently surprised by it, as taking it for part of the tree. But the most troublesome kind are the House-Serpents, so called because they frequently creep into houses, and sometimes into the very beds ; but unless a person happens to hurt them, they do not attempt to bite, and if they do, their bite is not mortal. This serpent is an inch and a half thick, and from an ell to a yard and a half in length.

To

To these we may add a very small serpent, that harbours and lays its eggs in the thatch of houses. It is about the length of one's finger, and as thick as a goose-quill ; and there is a water-snake of the same thickness, but two or three inches longer.

Scorpions there are in abundance, green and yellow, which creep very slowly, and turn up their tails upon their backs. Their sting occasions excessive pains ; and that of the black sort, found in the woods, is said to be mortal.

But all that we have said on this subject is not half so surprising as what we find attested in the Philosophical Transactions, namely, that in the kingdom of Congo there are serpents twenty-five feet long, which will swallow a whole sheep at once. They are killed as they lie stretching and basking themselves in the sun ; and after cutting off their heads and tails, and taking out their entrails, the Negroes eat them, and find them usually as fat as hogs. The same author reports, that the ants are so numerous and large in that country, that being one day sick in bed, he was forced to order himself to be carried out of his room, for fear of being devoured by them ; and that one may sometimes find in the morning the skeletons of cows that have been eaten up in one night by these insects.

V E G E T A B L E S.

ONE of the most remarkable vegetables in those countries is a plant not unlike our nettle, which grows in Nubia, and produces a seed of such a poisonous and destructive quality, that a tenth part of a grain of it kills a man in a quarter of an hour, and a whole grain in an instant. This deadly product is made a considerable branch not only of the trade of the natives, but of the royal revenue; it being sold by the retailer for a hundred ducats an ounce; besides which, the buyer must pay the like sum to the king, and take a solemn oath not to administer any part of it within his dominions; and it is death for any private person to sell it without the king's permission.

Some writers relate strange stories of several of the plants of Abyssinia, particularly a plant called Amagmagda, which is said to have the peculiar virtue of healing broken and shattered bones in a very short time: mention is also made of a plant called Assazoe, which is said to charm and lay serpents and other venomous creatures to sleep; and the root of which is said to be a certain antidote against the most deadly bite of any poisonous animal. A plant called the Idian Fig-tree, is a native of those countries, the fruit of which is excellent; and is supposed by Ludolphus to be the plant called

led by Moses *Dudam*, which in our version of the Bible is translated *Mandrakes*, and which Rachael is said to have exchanged with her rival sister for a night's lodging with her husband.

There is a small tree or shrub growing to the height of three or four feet, which bears a fruit resembling Coriander seed: these berries, when ripe and dried in the sun, shrink like East India pepper, turn black and hard, and differ little from it in taste, but is not so hot.

In Angola grows a tree called by the natives *Mandihoka*, the leaves whereof are of a deep green, shaped like those of an oak, and full of veins and prickles. The stem or body shoots up ten or twelve feet high, and then spreads out into many branches. When the tree is grown to its full maturity, they cut it down close to the earth, and afterwards grub up the root, which they grind in a mill till it be as small as meal; and this being dried over a furnace in copper pans, they make bread of it, which is little inferior in goodness to that of wheat or rye.

In the same country they have a tree called *Likonde* or *Alikonde*, which delights in a dry soil, and frequently grows to the thickness of eight, ten, or twelve fathoms in the body; but the root never goes above a foot under ground, so that they are easily blown down. Its fruit resembles that of the Palm-tree, but is some-

somewhat longer, having a white kernel within it; but the natives never eat it except in time of famine or great scarcity, it being reckoned a dangerous food, causing a sickness which sometimes proves mortal. Of the inner rind they make a sort of cloth, and canoes or boats of the body of the tree.

Under this head it seems not improper to give some account of the fine garden belonging to the Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope, where they have introduced almost all the fruits and flowers that are to be found in Europe, Asia, and Africa; and most of them are improved, and flourish more than they did in the respective climates and countries from whence they were brought. The garden is watered by springs that fall down from a neighbouring mountain; and the fruit-trees grow within squares of bay-hedges, which are so high and thick, that the storms coming from the ocean do them little prejudice. In the hot season these hedges afford a refreshing shade; and there is also a fine grove of chestnut-trees, which the sun cannot penetrate. Here grow together oranges, lemons, citrons, pomegranates, peaches, and the various apples and pears of Europe, all excellent in their kind; and amongst the rest are the crimson Japan apples, which intermixed with the green leaves, appear exceeding beautiful. There is a great variety of figs in this garden; but those most admired are the Pisang figs, which are blue and large, and grow upon a plant that dies as
soon

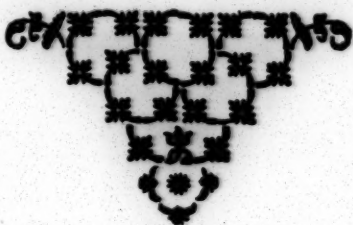
soon as the fruit comes to maturity, and the next year a new plant arises from the same root. It has no stem, but the leaves, which are six or seven yards long, twist together, and support each other. Here are also the Indian Guavas, a fruit perfectly round, and of the size of a crab apple. It has a pleasant taste, is covered with a tender green skin, and within is full of seeds, which alone are a remedy against fluxes, the reigning disease of hot countries. In a word, the climate, soil, and situation of this garden are very favourable for the growth of the most curious plants, of which there is a fine collection. This is the general account of those who have described it; but Mr. Maxwell tells us, that when he was there it was much neglected, both in respect of its plants and walks, neither of which are extraordinary.

The wine of the Cape has of late been much admired in Europe, though after the Dutch settled there it was a great while before they raised any considerable vineyards. At first they carried thither vine-stocks from the banks of the Rhine, and from Persia, which grew very well, and furnished them with grapes for eating, but they did not pretend to make any quantities of wine till a German taught them to take the prunings of their vines, and cut them into pieces about six inches long, and set them in fields ploughed for that purpose. They followed his directions, the prunings grew, sending out shoots at every knot; and thus they

they were soon furnished with as many stocks as they had occasion for, which they removed from these nurseries, and planted them in other grounds in rows, at convenient distances from each other, the land being first prepared by the plough. This method has succeeded so well, that there is now scarce a cottage in all the Cape settlement but has its vineyard, which produces wine enough for the family, and some for sale; though their vines sometimes receive damage from the mildew or the locusts: and there is a little black worm that is a greater enemy to them than either of the former; but they employ their slaves to pick off these worms every morning, whereby a great deal of mischief is prevented. It often happens likewise, that their vines receive considerable damage from the south-east winds, which break off the branches loaded with the heaviest clusters; for which reason they do not let them run up higher than about three feet from the ground. Their vintage begins the latter end of February, and continues all the month of March; for though they have some grapes ripe in January, they only dry and eat them, observing that the wine made of them will not keep. They have both red and white wines, but the greater plenty of white; which, if kept two years, has much the flavour of canary.

Besides a vineyard, almost every house has its kitchen-garden, in which they have all the roots and herbs that grow in the gardens of Europe, from whence they are supplied with
seeds

seeds from time to time ; for it is observed that in a few years their plants degenerate, but while they do last they are larger and sweeter than those of Europe. The head of a cabbage, at its full growth, will sometimes weigh twenty pounds, and that of a cauliflower as much ; the seeds whereof are brought from Cyprus and Savoy.



F O S S I L S.

THE mountains of Abyssinia and Nubia contain inexhaustible mines in their bowels, as appears by the vast quantities of gold dust, which are found in the streams that issue from them : but it does not appear whether the gold or silver mines of those countries are wrought, the natives being naturally averse to such sort of hard work, and perhaps thinking it would be folly to take pains to dig up treasures which might tempt the Turks to invade them. Instead of money, therefore, they make use of a kind of fossil salt, to purchase from strangers such commodities as their country does not afford.

The mountains of Congo are likewise said to abound with gold, though this is denied by some writers. It is allowed on all hands, however, that there are mines of excellent copper, particularly in the provinces of Pembo and Sango ; and in Bemba there are mines of silver and other metals.

In the province of Sundo there are mines of iron, which are wrought, the usefulness of that metal in making arms, knives, instruments of agriculture, and divers other kinds of utensils, being well known to the inhabitants. Quarries of

of good marble, and several sorts of precious stones, are also found in these and many other parts of Africa.

But perhaps no part of Ethiopia yields greater plenty of gold than the empire of Monomotapa, from whence the Portuguese have given the sovereign of that country, the title of the Golden Emperor. The natives dive to the bottom of their lakes and rivers, and bring up with them the mud and sand, from which they afterwards separate the precious metal.

But in the kingdom of Sofala, which is dependent on and by some reckoned a part of the said empire, the mines are so rich, that the inhabitants assert they yield annually above two millions of metigals, each metigal amounting to fourteen livres French money; that the Ships from Zidem and other ports of Arabia carry off above two millions a year in time of peace; and that the Portuguese governor of Mosambique, whose office lasts but three years, has three hundred thousand crowns revenue in that time, besides the soldiers pay, and a tribute paid to the King of Portugal. From this plenty of gold some have concluded Sofala to be the land of Ophir, to which Solomon sent fleets from Ezion-geber, a port on the Red Sea, which returned once in three years, bringing home gold and other commodities to an immense value: but this is mere conjecture, and indeed the most learned author:

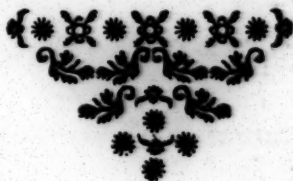
can go no farther in a matter of such uncertainty *.

In Abyssinia, besides a great number of salt pits which supply that country with much more than is necessary for home consumption, there is on the confines of Dancala and Tigra, two adjacent kingdoms, a large plain of four days journey, one side whereof is incrustated all over with a pure white salt, and in such quantity that some hundreds of camels, mules, and asses are constantly employed in carrying it to different parts of the neighbouring countries.

In Angola, there are mines of salt, from whence they dig it out in pieces above a yard long, and as clear as crystal. It is as white

* Ophir has been sought for almost in every part of the world, and yet remains a *Terra incognita*; however, it does not seem probable that Sofala is the place, because it is not distant enough from Ezion-geber for a fleet to have spent three years in the voyage, though we should allow the ships went to different ports for different parts of their cargo. Be this as it will, it was chiefly by the trade to Ophir, that Solomon came to 'surpass all the kings of the earth in riches;' for the very first voyage they made, they brought back four hundred and fifty talents of gold, exclusive of silver and all other valuable commodities; which alone amounts to near two millions and a half of our money, reckoning the talent of gold equivalent to five thousand four hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling.

as our best salt, and has such a peculia
flavour, that a piece of it put into the po
gives both the liquor and meat a pleasan
seasoning. In some parts of Ethiopia, there
are whole mountains of sulphur, besides di
vers other fossils, of which we have already
given a sufficient account in the course of this
work.





S E C T. III.

Remarkable Laws and Customs of the Hottentots.

THE Hottentots, who inhabit the Southern parts of Africa, are in many respects a very remarkable people; and are represented by some writers as the most stupid and irrational of all the human species. Mr. Maxwell acquaints us, that no arts are practised amongst them, no ploughing nor sowing, no going to sea, not so much as in a boat; that they have no notion of a providence, a God, or a future state; no tradition of the creation, or the flood, no prayers or sacrifices; nor, in fine, the least notion of any invisible being, capable of doing them either good or harm; so that their ignorance, it is supposed, can hardly be paralleled. Mr. Kolben however, and some others, set the Hottentots in a different light. He says, that in agriculture, though they practise none themselves, they excel the Europeans residing among them; and in many other arts, of which he gives several instances, they discover great marks of capacity and discernment. He acknowledges it is a difficult matter to learn their notions concerning God and religion, or whether they have any at all or no; but after a long acquaintance with them, and many enquiries, he found that

that they believe a supreme being, who does no body any hurt; that he dwells far above the moon. They look upon the moon as an inferior deity, and assemble constantly to worship her at full and change, believing her to have the disposal of the weather. They likewise worship an evil deity, whom they look upon as the father of all mischief, who stirs up enemies against them, frustrates all their good designs, afflicts them and their cattle with diseases, and sets on wild beasts to devour them. There is also a kind of insect which they adore as a benign deity; and they pay a sort of religious veneration to their departed saints and men of renown. They consecrate woods, mountains, fields, and rivers to their memory; and when they pass by any of these places, they stop to contemplate the virtues of the deceased, and to implore his protection for them and their cattle.

There is one part of the Hottentots character in which all writers agree, namely, that they are the filthiest people in the world. This Mr. Kolben ascribes to that general laziness which runs through all the nations of them, and in which they seem to place their whole earthly happiness. And yet some authors have said too much upon this point, and represented them as more uncleanly than they really are; for it has been asserted, that all the Hottentots without exception devour the entrails of beasts, with their filth and excrements, and but half broiled; and that, whether sound or rotten, they look upon them as the greatest dainties. But

Mr. Kolben, who took every opportunity to observe their manner of preparing and eating their victuals, always found, that when they had entrails to eat, they turned and stripped them of their filth, washed them in clean water, and then boiled them in the blood of the beast, if they had any ; if not, they gave them a thorough broiling. They are so nasty indeed, when they do all this, as to make an European abhor the victuals : but it is to be observed, that their usual food is roots, herbs, and fruits, and their drink milk and water. They are great lovers of tobacco and spirituous liquors.

What adds to the nastiness of the Hottentots, is the custom observed from their infancy, of besmearing themselves all over from head to foot with butter or sheep's fat mixed with soot, in order to make them look black, and to render their limbs pliable and supple. The meaner sort of them are generally obliged to make use of butter or fat that is rank, which renders them offensive to the nose of an European, who may smell them at a considerable distance ; but the better sort besmear themselves with the freshest and choicest they can procure. Their hair is likewise so clotted with this grease and other filth, that it looks like a cap of black mortar.

Both sexes are usually clad with the skin of a sheep, wild cat, or tyger, which they wear the year round, turning the woolly or hairy side inwards in winter, and outwards in summer. At night they lie upon these mantles, and they
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are tied up and buried in them when they die. As they wear them mostly open, being only tied about their necks with thongs, they appear naked down to the Pudenda, which the men hang in a bag, and the women cover with a square apron made of the skin of a sheep or some wild beast. They tie to their necks a little greasy bag, in which they carry a knife, a pipe and tobacco, or dacha, a kind of plant which they cut and smoke in lieu of it; and in this pouch they also carry a bit of wood, burnt at both ends, as a charm against witchcraft. The men only wear caps in cold and wet weather, but the women wear them all the year round both night and day. They are made of half-dried skins, and the crowns are raised a little spirally, whereas the men's caps sit round and close to their heads. The men generally wear three rings of ivory on their left arm, which serve not only for ornaments, but as a guard for the arm when they are engaged with an enemy. The women wear thongs of skins round their legs, the rings lying curiously one above another, sometimes to the number of a hundred; and these so much resemble the guts of sheep or other animals, that they have been frequently mistaken for such by strangers. These serve for distinction of sex, and for ornament; and they are also provisions against an hour of hunger and scarcity, for if they can get no other food, they bruise them between two stones, and eat them with great eagerness and satisfaction. They go bare-footed, except when they travel,
and

and then they have only a piece of skin fastened about their feet.

The Hottentots, both men and women, are very fond of ornaments, particularly for the head, such as ear-rings made of brass-wire, brass buttons, bits of looking-glass, &c. which they fasten to their hair, and admire them as much as diamonds are admired in Europe. Beads of brass or glass are trinkets with which they are much delighted, wearing them in their necklaces, bracelets, and girdles; and the more of these they put on, the finer they reckon themselves, and the more regard they expect from their neighbours. It is a custom among the men to distinguish themselves by the bladders of the wild beasts they have killed, which they blow up and fasten to their hair, esteeming them as trophies of their valour. The women paint themselves with a red stone, making a spot over each eye, one upon the nose, one upon each cheek, and one upon the chin, which they reckon a great addition to their beauty.

The huts of the Hottentots are built with slender poles, bent like arches, and covered with mats made of bulrushes dried in the sun, and wrought so close that the work is not to be penetrated by the rain. Their form is oval, the longest diameter being generally about fourteen feet, and the shortest about ten. Those of the better sort have two coverings, the one of mats, the other of skins, which not only keep

Keep out the rain but the excessive heat. They have no light but what comes in at the entrance, which is an arch about three feet high and two broad, on the top whereof is hung a skin, to be taken up or let down at pleasure. Their furniture consists of little more than their mantles, which serve them to lie on, some other skins of wild beasts they have killed or purchased, a pot to boil their meat in, one or two for drinking, some earthen vessels for milk and butter, their bows and arrows and other arms, and perhaps some other trifling utensils.

A number of these huts ranged in a circle, with an open area in the middle, makes one of their Kraals or villages, each of which has a court for the administration of justice. This court consists of the captain and the head of each family, who try and determine by a majority of voices both civil and criminal causes. Murder, adultery, and robbery they punish with death; and if the offender is convicted, he is executed on the spot, the captain giving him the first blow with his truncheon, and the rest of the judges following the example till they have beaten him to death; which done, he is wrapped up in his mantle and buried. The family of the criminal however suffers nothing either in privilege or property, nor are they reproached with the memory of his crime, but treated with the same respect and distinction as if no such misfortune had happened.

Each village has its physician, and sometimes two, who are chosen by the inhabitants,
and

and do their duty without fee or reward, the honour of the employment being thought a sufficient recompence for the trouble. The Hottentots put great trust in the abilities of these doctors, taking their medicines and submitting to their operations with the utmost readiness; and indeed their practice is attended with wonderful success: but they are not every day called to it, the Hottentots being a stout hearty people, rarely troubled with distempers. If a patient dies under their hands, they always assert that their remedies have been rendered ineffectual by witchcraft, and this the people always believe.

There is another officer called Suri, or master, who, like the physician, is elected by the people, and performs his office without revenue or perquisite. M. Kolben calls him the priest, as having the ordering of the marriage and funeral ceremonies, and of all that relate to their offerings and worship. He is the operator in the custom that prevails among the Hottentots, of depriving the males of one testicle, at the age of twelve years or thereabouts*; which

* Mr. Maxwell says, that this operation is performed immediately after the marriage ceremony, and that Nieuhoff and others are mistaken, who assert that the Hottentots cut out one of the testes of their male children as soon as they are born, or at the age of nine or ten: but we cannot help thinking, that if there is any such custom amongst them, the castration is made when the males are young, and not when they are just entered into a state of matrimony.

which he does with a great deal of skill and dexterity, and also dresses and sews up the wound, after having crammed it with the finest fat. In these things lies the whole mystery of his function.

Every Hottentot nation has a chief, whose office is to command the army, and preside in their councils; and without his consent they neither make peace nor war. In council, which consists of the captains of the several Kraals, he sits in the middle, and the captains round him in a circle; and since the establishment of the Dutch at the Cape, he is distinguished by a brass crown, which he wears at the head of the army, in council, and on every solemn occasion. This ornament the Dutch made a present of to the chief of every nation in alliance with them; whereas antiently they were only distinguished by the superior beauty of their apparel. The chief has nothing allowed him by the Public, either for the reward of his labours or the support of his dignity; but his person is always held in great veneration. Under him, in time of war, the captains command the troops furnished by their respective Kraals; and they are distinguished by a cane with a brass head, which is also presented them by the Dutch.

An unnatural custom prevails among the Hottentots, that when a woman bears twins, if they are both girls, she exposes one, and nurses the other; and if she have a boy and girl,

girl, the boy is brought up, and the girl exposed; but if they have two sons at a birth, they preserve both, and make great feasting and merriment on that occasion. The child to be exposed is either shut up in some cave, left in some thicket, or tied to a tree, where it is either starved to death, or devoured by wild beasts: And the pretence for this barbarous custom is either poverty, or that the woman has not milk enough for both the children.

To conclude this account of the Hottentots, we shall only add another of their customs equally cruel with the former, namely, that of exposing their aged parents. When a father of a family is become quite superannuated and useless, he is obliged, it seems, to resign his stock of cattle, and whatever else he has in the world, to his eldest son, or to his next male heir: Which done, the heir erects a tent or hut in some unfrequented place, a good distance from the Kraal he belongs to; and having assembled the men of the Kraal, he acquaints them with the weak condition of the old man, desiring their consent to expose him in the distant hut built for that purpose, which they seldom or never refuse. A day being accordingly appointed to convey the poor creature to his last abode, the heir kills an ox and two or three sheep, and invites the whole Kraal to feast and be merry with him; and when the entertainment is over, the old Man is laid upon an ox, and carried to the hut, accompanied by most of his neighbours, where they

they shut him up, and leave him to perish. In the same manner they deal with a superannuated mother or female relation; and the reason they assign for this shocking custom is, that it would be more barbarous to suffer an old creature to languish out a miserable life, and be many years a dying, than to bring their misery to a speedy conclusion; and that it is out of extreme tenderness they put an end to the lives of the poor wretches in the manner above related.



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THE
BEAUTIES
OF
NATURE AND ART
DISPLAYED,
IN A
TOUR through the WORLD.

CHAP. V.
OF THE
AFRICAN ISLANDS.



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C H A P. V.

Of the AFRICAN ISLANDS.

S E C T. I.

A general Account of the African Islands.

THE principal islands of Africa, are Madagascar, the island of Bourbon, the island of Prince Maurice, the islands of Comorro, and Zocotara, all which lie to the eastward of the continent, in the Indian ocean. On the south-west, lie the island of St. Helena, Ascension, St. Matthew Annobon, St. Thomas, and Princes Island; and on the north-west lie the Cape Verde islands, the Canaries, the Madeira, and the Azores, though these last seem more properly to belong to Europe; and some geographers place them among the islands of America. Madagascar is one of the largest islands in the world, hitherto known; being about 800 miles in length, and in some parts above 200 in breadth. At a distance from the sea, the country is full of high and steep mountains; but it abounds nevertheless with spacious plains, extraordinary good pastures, rivers, and lakes, springs of excellent water, and woods that wear a perpetual

tual verdure. The isle of Bourbon belongs to the French, where they have three considerable towns. It is a fine fruitful island, and is the place where the French East India ships usually put in for refreshments.

The Mauritius, or Prince Maurice's island, is possessed by the Dutch, who found it uninhabited, but have now a fort and garrison there, and have stocked the country with cattle and poultry. Here the Hollanders touch in their passage from the Cape to Batavia.

The other islands on the east of Africa are not very remarkable; nor are those on the south-west, except St. Helena, which belongs to our East India company, and is well fortified at the landing places, it being of great benefit to their ships, which usually call there for refreshment, both in their passage to India, and their return to Europe. This island on every side appears to be a hard barren rock, but on the top is covered with a fine earth twelve or eighteen inches deep, which produces plenty of grass, herbs, roots, &c, and is very proper for wheat and other grain, but their corn is mostly devoured by rats and other vermin before it comes to maturity. The country, beyond the ascent of the rock, is prettily diversified with rising hills and valleys, adorned with plantations of fruit-trees and kitchen-gardens, amongst which the houses of the inhabitants are interspersed. Their vineyards of late years have been considerably improved,

improved, some French refugees having settled in the island, who are skilled in that branch of husbandry. They have plenty of black cattle, hogs, goats, turkeys, and all sorts of poultry; and they are not only blessed with the necessities of life, but with a continued state of health to enjoy them, the air being usually serene and clear, the island frequently refreshed with cooling showers and the sea breezes, and themselves almost constantly employed in the wholesome exercises of agriculture and gardening.

The other islands on the western side of Africa are not very considerable, till we come to those of Cape Verde, which belong to the Portuguese. The principal of them is St. Jago, where our East India ships outward bound are often supplied with water and fresh provisions, the island abounding with hogs, goats, and poultry. From some of these islands, particularly Mayo, the English export great quantities of salt to America.

The Canary islands, which are subject to the crown of Spain, are chiefly famous for their excellent wines; and the same may be said of the Madeiras; which belong to the Portuguese.

Several of the Azores, which likewise belong to Portugal, are very fertile, pleasant, and healthy, and have an excellent breed of cattle; but they are much subject to earthquakes and fiery eruptions.

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Thus much may suffice for a general account of the African islands; but they afford us some natural curiosities, which require a more particular description; and first,

Teneriffe, one of the Canary islands, is famous for its lofty mountain called the Pike or Peak, which rises like a sugar-loaf in the middle of the island, and may be seen at sea in clear weather at a hundred and twenty miles distance. Some authors make the height of this mountain fifteen miles, and others three or four times that number, computing undoubtedly the winding ascent; but Varenus says, it is four miles five furlongs perpendicular, and Raimondus reckons it three miles only. Which of these accounts is nearest the truth, we cannot determine; but perhaps it is that of Varenus. We may safely venture to say that the Pike is one of the highest mountains in the world; but the best account of it is that given by several English merchants and others, who had the curiosity to climb to the top of it, which we find in the history of the Royal Society of London, published by Dr. Sprat, bishop of Rochester; whereof the following is an extract.

They set out from Oratavia, a sea-port on the west side of the island, and passed over several bare mountains and sandy places, till they came to the foot of the Pike, where lies a vast number of huge stones, that seem to have fallen down from above. After they had
ascended

ascended about a mile on horseback, they were obliged to alight and climb the hill on foot; and having traversed a steep black rock about a mile higher, they found the top of it as flat as a pavement. Here the air was very cold after sunset, and they were forced to keep great fires all night. The next morning they proceeded to that part of the mountain called the Sugar-Loaf, which being steep, and the soil a deep white sand, it was very difficult travelling, though they were provided with shoes that had soles a finger broader than the upper-leather, to facilitate the passage. When they came near the top of the Pike, they found a strong wind, and a continual breathing of a hot sulphureous vapour issued from the hill, which scorched their faces, and made them sore. On the top there was a large basin or pit, shaped like an inverted cone, which was of considerable depth, and about a musket-shot over. The inside of this cavity, or caldron, as it is called, is covered with small loose stones mixed with sand and sulphur, from whence issued a hot suffocating steam; and the footing being so bad, they did not descend into the pit above four or five yards, though some have ventured to the bottom. The brim of this pit, on which they stood, was not above a yard broad; and from hence they could clearly see the Grand Canary, Palma, Gomera, and even Ferro, which is twenty leagues distant. As soon as the sun appears, the shadow of the Pike seems to cover not only this and the Great Canary island, but even the sea to the very horizon, where it looks

looks as if, being limited, it turned up into the air.

The same gentlemen relate, that there was a great deal of snow and ice about two thirds of the way up, but at the top there was none at all; which doubtless is owing to the hot steam proceeding from the caldron and the upper parts of the mountain. They mention a remarkable cave, ten yards deep and fifteen broad, in shape like an oven or cupola, with a hole at top, near eight yards over, through which their servants let them down by a rope till they came to a bank of snow. At the bottom of the cave there is a round well of water, exactly underneath the opening above, the surface whereof is about a yard lower than the snow, and its depth about six fathoms. This is not supposed to be a spring, but only snow blown in and dissolved, or water that drops from the rocks, and is there collected. About the sides and roof of this grotto there were icicles hanging down to the snow.

They met with no trees or shrubs in their passage but pines, and among the white sands a bushy plant like broom.

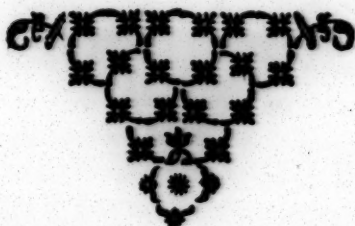
A physician, who lived upon the island of Teneriffe twenty years, gives it as his opinion, that the whole island being impregnated with brimstone, did formerly take fire, by the violence of which great part of it was blown up, there appearing about the island several mountains

tains of huge calcined stones, that must have had their origin from such subterraneous commotions. He farther supposes, that the greatest quantity of sulphur lying about the centre of the island, the shock was there the most violent, and occasioned the rising of the Pike to its present prodigious height; and this appears from the vast number of calcined rocks that lie at the bottom of it for three or four miles round. From the Pike to the south-west, almost as far as the shore, are still to be seen the tracks of the rivers of brimstone and melted ore which ran that way, and have so ruined the soil where they flowed, that broom is now its only production.

The Doctor adds, that in the south-west part of the island there are high mountains of a bluish earth, and stones with a rust on them like that of copper and vitriol, and that there are several springs of vitriolic water.

In the year 1704, there happened a most dreadful earthquake in the island of Teneriffe, which began the 24th of December, and increased till the 31st, when the earth opened, and two volcano's were formed, which cast up so many burning stones as made two considerable mountains; and the combustible matter thrown up by these new volcano's kindled above fifty fires in the neighbouring places. On the 5th of January the air was darkened with ashes and smoke, the terror increased, and towards the evening the country was all in a flame
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for above a league in extent. This was the effect of another volcano, which had broke out towards Oratavia, with at least thirty mouths within the circumference of a quarter of a league. In a word, whole towns were swallowed up or overturned, many thousands of people lost their lives, and the torrents of sulphur and metallic matter thrown out by these volcano's converted a great part of a fruitful country into a barren desert.



S E C T.



S E C T. II.

A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of the African Islands, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; and of other natural Objects of Curiosity.

ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, and FOSSILS.

IT does not appear, that there are many animals, natives of the African islands, which, as different from those already described, merit particular mention, on account of any curious or distinguishing characters or other peculiarities. With respect to the vegetable productions of those islands, one of the most remarkable is Ebony, which though not peculiar to Madagascar, yet grows very plentifully in that island, and is a very fine wood used in Mosaic and inlaid works, toys &c. being very hard and heavy, and susceptible of a beautiful polish. There are divers kinds of ebony, black, red, and green, all of them the product of Madagascar; though Maurice island, the isle of Bourbon, and some of the American islands, furnish part of the ebones used in Europe. Authors and travellers give a very different account of the tree that yields the black ebony, but the most authentic is that of M. Flacourt, who resided

many years in Madagascar as governor of the island. He assures us it grows very high and thick, has a black bark, and its leaves are of a deep green colour, resembling those of our myrtle. Tavernier says, the islanders bury their trees when cut down, to make them the blacker. Ebony is much less used amongst us than antiently, since the discovery of so many ways of giving other hard woods a black colour.

There is a large tree growing in Madagascar in great abundance, from whose trunk distils a resinous gum called Tacamahaca, of which there are two sorts, the one oozing from the tree spontaneously, the other by making incisions. It is not unlike our Poplar-tree, only bigger and taller; its leaves are small and green, its fruit red, about the size of a walnut, exceedingly resinous, and containing a stone like our peaches. The gum is found good to digest and resolve tumours; and being applied in form of a plaister to the temples and the nape of the neck, it assuages pains of the head, represses defluxions of rheum, and abates inflammations of the eyes. It is also good against the tooth-ach, and in arthritic pains it is used externally with success.

In the Cape Verd islands there grows a remarkable fruit, called by the English the custard-apple, which is as big as a pomegranate, and much of the same colour. Its outside shell or rind is beset round with small regular knobs

or

or risings, and the inside is full of a white soft pulp, sweet and very pleasant, much resembling a custard both in colour and taste; and in the middle there are a few small black stones or kernels. The tree that bears this fruit has long slender branches, at the extremity whereof the apples grow; but a large tree seldom produces above twenty or thirty.

Among the curious Fossils of the African islands, we shall venture to place that fragrant drug called Ambergrise, though it be a substance whose nature and origin has been as differently guessed at, as any thing in natural history. A multitude of authors have had their favourite systems about it, and every one has had a number of followers. Some have supposed it to be the excrement of a bird, others of a whale, and others take it to proceed from honey which is made by the bees in the rocks by the sea-side, where being attenuated and digested by the heat of the sun, it becomes such a substance as we find it. But these errors are easily detected by plain chymical experiments; for all dung of animals, and honey too, admits of a solution in aqueous menstruums, but obstinately resist the most highly rectified spirit of wine. Some, on the other hand, refer ambergrise to the vegetable kingdom, taking it for a peculiar kind of resin or gum that exsudes from trees to us unknown, and falls into the sea, where, acquiring a more perfect digestion by the heat of the sun, and by the sea-salt, it is con-

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gealed

gealed into a resinous body. Others assert that it issues from the roots of a tree that always shoot towards the sea, and discharge their juices into it: But, besides many other reasons, what directly overthrows these opinions, is, that all resinous vegetable substances will admit of an easy solution and extraction in highly rectified spirit of wine; whereas the contrary is true of ambergrise, which is very difficult to be dissolved in such a spirit. Others will have it to be a sea mushroom, torn up from the bottom by the violence of tempests; and others suppose it to be a spongy kind of earth, which is washed off from the rocks by the sea, where it floats, being lighter than water.

In the Philosophical Transactions we have accounts of ambergrise transmitted from America to the Royal Society by Dr. Boyleston and Mr. Dudley; according to whom it is a true animal concrete, formed in balls in the body of the male Sperma-ceti whale, and lodged in a large bag at the root of the penis: but Dr. Neuman, chymist to the King of Prussia, is positive that this bag is no other than the urinary bladder of the whale, and that the pretended ambergrise found therein is only the stone in the bladder.

Ambergrise indeed may be found in whales, but then they must have swallowed it; for Dr. Neuman absolutely denies its being an animal substance, as not yielding, in the analysis,

lyfis, any one animal principle. This learned Prussian, after an ample recital and confutation of all the opinions of others concerning ambergrise, gives us his own, which is, that it is a bitumen issuing out of the earth, at first of a liquid or at least a viscid consistence, but afterwards condensed and hardened; and of the same sentiment is Dr. Hill, who accordingly describes it in his *History of Fossils*.

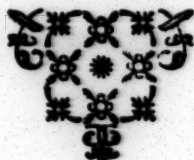
That ambergrise was once soft and fluid, is evinced, says the Doctor, by the same proof that we have of the common ambers having been so; which is, that it frequently contains extraneous bodies immersed in its most solid masses, which could not have been admitted there but when it was in a soft or fluid state; small shells, little pebbles, and grains of sand are often found in it, and in general such bodies as it may be naturally supposed to pick up at the bottom of the sea; though there are some which one would wonder how it should get, such as pieces of honeycomb, and the like. Great quantities of it are found thrown up by the sea on the coast of Madagascar, and some other African islands, as well as on the continent. The seas about several of the Indian islands abound with it; and it is said to be met with sometimes on the northern coasts of Great-Britain and Ireland.

This valuable bitumen is of a loose texture, remarkably light, of a rugged unequal surface, soft and fatty like suet or tallow to the touch, of a high perfumed smell, and extremely various in shape and size. It is found in masses from an ounce in weight to thirty or forty pounds, and even much larger *, but such pieces are very rare, its most usual standard being from four to ten ounces. Its natural colour, when most pure and perfect, is a pale grey; but the whitish particles are sometimes apt to wash off, and leave the black ones alone, which are of a firmer structure, and less scented. This has occasioned ambergrise to be distinguished into two kinds, ash-coloured and black, of which the latter is much less valuable. It is of great use among perfumers, and is recommended by physicians as proper to raise the drooping spirits, and to accelerate their motions. In the eastern nations it is in high repute, and continually
given

* We have various instances in authors of huge pieces of ambergrise, but we need only mention one that is recent and unquestionable, that is, that large lump which the Dutch East-India company bought in 1693, of the King of Tidore, for eleven thousand dollars. It weighed a hundred and eighty-two pounds, was two feet two inches long, and five feet eight inches round in the thickest part. The Duke of Tuscany offered fifty thousand crowns for this curiosity, which Nicholas Chevalier has fully described in a small treatise published at Amsterdam in the year 1700.

given as a cordial, a strengthener, and a
prolonger of life.

Here we might enumerate many other fossils belonging to the African islands, but in general they are such as are found upon the continent, or have been sufficiently spoken of already.



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Of A M E R I C A *in general.*

A M E R I C A is a quarter of the world, which, though the largest, and, in some respects, the richest of all the four, is placed the last of the four by geographers, because it was the last discovered, and probably the last peopled : for whatever some authors may have imagined, that this vast continent, or at least some tracts of it, was known to the wise King Solomon, it is plain that neither any of the sacred books, nor of the antient historians, have made the least mention of this part of the globe. Neither is it likely, that if in Solomon's time a large tract of it had been discovered, and a profitable traffic settled there, as some pretend, it should have ended and died with that monarch. Nor do we see any reason to fall in with that chimerical supposition, that America was known to the antients ; for so large and rich a continent, once found out, could never be lost again, without supposing an end of the world, and a new race of people, quite ignorant of the discoveries of their ancestors. We may therefore safely conclude, with the far greatest part of authors, that this vast continent, this New World, as it is called, continued unknown from the creation to the year of our Lord 1492, when it was discovered by the renowned Christopher

stopher Columbus, of whose enterprize we have already given some account *.

But as strange as the discovery of America may appear, it is still more surprising to consider which way it was originally peopled, supposing the deluge universal, since it has no communication, that we know of, with any other part of the inhabited world. The natives of America have very uncertain traditions about this matter; but by the great number of people found there when the Spaniards first took possession of the country, it is reasonable to conclude it must have been inhabited some thousand years ago. Now it is to be remembered, that part of the western coast of Africa, and the Canary islands, were planted by the Carthaginians, four or five hundred years before the birth of our Saviour; and as the Canaries lie over-against America, some have conjectured that a ship might probably be driven thither by the winds that blow constantly from the eastward, it being not above three weeks sail from thence to that continent. It is farther supposed, that this ship, being sent to plant a colony, was crowded with men, women, and children, like those we now send to our plantations; and if these planters were once driven from their intended port far to the westward, and found it impossible for them to return, what could be more rational than to run before the wind, in hopes of making some

* See Vol. VI. p. 204. & seq.

other land ? And as we suppose them viſtalled in order to plant or recruit ſome colony, they could not have leſs than three weeks or a month's proviſions on board, which was ſufficient to ſupport them in ſuch a voyage.

If it be demanded how it happened, that no ſhipping was ever driven to America ſince the Carthaginian ſtate flouriſhed ; it may be answered, that no people have navigated thoſe ſeas ſince the Carthaginians till very lately, and all their diſcoveries and plantations on the weſt coaſt of Africa were loſt and ruined when their ſtate was conquered by the Romans. Beſides, there is another circumſtance to induce us to believe the natives of America were deſcended from the Carthaginians, which is, the conformity of their religious rites. The Americans adored mountains, woods, rivers, and almoſt every animal which the Africans once did, and ſome of them continue to do at this very day. And if we ſuppoſe America to have been firſt peopled by ſea, it muſt be either by the Phœnicians or Carthaginians, no other people having fleets and colonies on the weſtern coaſts of Europe and Africa in thoſe early ages.

Some have imagined that America might have been colonied by means of the ſea from ſome of the Aſiatic countries, on account of a reſemblance they find between the complexion, hair, beard, cuſtoms, &c. of the Chineſe or Japaneſe with ſome of the Americans : but this is not at all probable, conſidering the great

breadth of the Pacific Ocean, which is not less than eight or nine thousand miles ; and we see the Chinese, the only people furnished with shipping in the eastern parts of the world, never affect making long voyages, or visiting remote regions. To this we may add, that it is very unlikely that any of their ships should be driven to America by accident, because the sea is so wide, and the winds so opposite to those that sail from Asia.

As for the notion that the north part of America joins to Asia, and was peopled by land from that continent, it seems very improbable, for we know that the sea extends more than eighty degrees to the northward, and therefore if America was peopled that way, those who went thither must travel within ten degrees of the Pole, which parts one would think are neither habitable nor passable. But admitting there is a passage by land from the Old to the New World, how comes it that no man ever returned that way from America? If it be said, that the same objection may be made against the opinion that America was peopled by sea, we answer, that the case is far from being parallel, because the wind is always fair for sailing from Africa to America, but contrary to those that would return from thence: and as well as we understand navigation at this day, we find it difficult to come from America without sailing pretty far north, where we meet with variable winds, and for the most part westerly.

There

There remains one objection against the peopling of America by the Carthaginians, which is, that the natives, when that continent was discovered, were destitute of almost all arts and sciences; that they knew nothing of ship-building, or even the use of iron. But to this it may be answered, that as the first generation was probably worn out before any iron-mines were discovered, and as it is possible that none of those who arrived there might understand the digging, melting, and separating the metal, if such mines had been found, it is no wonder that in an age or two the use of iron was forgot, and consequently all structures or manufactures in which that metal was required.

There is another circumstance which favours the opinion that the first inhabitants of America came by sea from Africa, namely, that it was found better peopled in the middle, between the Tropics, than it was towards the north or south; whereas, in our continent, the most populous countries and the most considerable kingdoms have been within the temperate zone, to the northward of the Tropic of Cancer. Had the Europeans or Asiatics gone north about to America, it is reasonable to think they would have first planted those countries that lay nearest the north, or at least within the temperate zone, and not have chosen to fix the two great empires of Mexico and Peru in the hottest part of the continent, and leave the rest of it almost without inhabitants.

It may still be objected, that though men might pass first to America in ships, it cannot be imagined that every species of beasts, birds, and insects, passed thither the same way. To which it may be replied, that it is equally improbable they should travel thither by way of the north pole; for it is not to be supposed, that animals bred in hot countries would ever wander into frozen regions; nay, it is a question whether many of them would live in a cold climate, if they were carried thither. Besides, some of the most hardy animals, and fittest for such journies, as oxen, mules, and horses, were not found in America. On the other hand, several species of animals we meet with in the New World never appeared in our continent; and if these first passed from us to America, how comes it that none of the same species are left behind? The difficulty remains equal, whether we suppose animals to have passed from one continent to the other by sea or land; and our ignorance how the Americans came to have some of the same animals that we have, is no solid objection against the notion that America was peopled by sea.

After all the fruitless speculations and disputes upon this subject, it is probable that America is entirely separated from our continent by the ocean, without any neck of land, whereby many have supposed it to communicate with Tartary. So that upon the whole it must be acknowledged, that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to account for the
 1 peopling

peopling of this vast continent, and the stocking it with such numbers of wild beasts and other animals, unless we have recourse to an opinion which some have entertained, which is, that the deluge was only partial, not universal, and that America was peopled before that time, though scarce any thing of navigation was then known, there being no ocean or separate continents, and hardly any island or country but what might easily be gone to by land. This is the sentiment of the learned Mr. Whiston, who supposes that some of the inhabitants of America might be preserved from the deluge, as we know some were preserved in this continent; though no records are left amongst them to assure us thereof. 'It is evident, says our author, that the whole earth in Moses, is no more than the then known parts of the earth or world; and it is evident that men knew nothing then of the American world: so that the silence of the sacred historian relating to that world, is of no validity as to this matter. And since other arguments seem to imply that America was not peopled from this continent, I think it is most probable that some were saved there from the deluge, as well as here.'

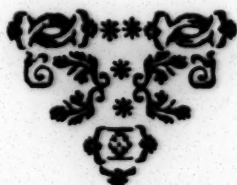
By inspecting a map of America, it appears that the north and south parts of that vast continent are joined together by a narrow neck of land called the Isthmus of Darien or Panama, which is about sixty miles over from sea to sea, between Panama and Porto Bello: so that

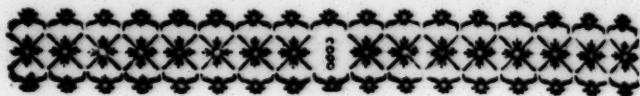
when we divide America into north and south, it must not be understood that the Equator makes this division, but the said Isthmus; for what is denominated South America, extends at least twelve degrees to the northward of the Equator.

The whole length of America, from the most northern part of it yet discovered to the Streights of Magellan on the south, is about eight thousand miles in a direct line; but as to its breadth it is quite irregular, being in some places about three thousand six hundred miles, and not above sixty or seventy in the narrow Isthmus above-mentioned. It is not known whether it joins to Europe or Asia on the north, but on the East it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, which separates it from Europe and Africa; on the west by the South Sea or Pacific Ocean, which parts it from Asia; and on the south by the Streights of Magellan, which separate it from *Terra del Fuego*, on the south part of which is Cape Horn, reckoned the utmost verge of South America.

A country of such vast extent, not only on each side of the Equator, but reaching so far beyond each of the Tropics, must of necessity be supposed to have as great a variety of soils as it has of climates: but upon the whole, if we except the most northern and southern parts, which are here, as every where else, naturally cold and barren, the rest is an immense treasury of the valuable productions of nature,

ture, being stored with most, if not all the plants, grains, fruits, trees, metals, minerals, &c. that are found in the other parts of the world, and many of them likewise in much greater perfection; besides which, it has an almost infinite variety of others peculiar to itself, which will not grow, or at least thrive, in any other country.





CHAP. I.

Of SOUTH AMERICA.

SECT. I.

A general Account of South America.

THE most general division of South America is into 1. Brasil, the chief cities of which are St. Salvador, and St. Sebastian. 2. Paraguay, the chief city of which is Buenes Ayres. 3. Terra Magellanica. 4. Chili, the chief cities of which are St. Jago, and Imperial. 5. Peru, the chief cities of which are Quito, Payta, Lyra, and Potosi. 6. The country of the Amazons. 7. Guiana; and 8. Terra Firma, the chief cities of which are Porto Bello, Panama, and Carthagena.



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S E C T. II.

A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of South America, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; of remarkable Mountains, Springs, and Rivers; and of other natural Objects of Curiosity.

A N I M A L S.

AMONG the remarkable animals found in South America may be reckonod the Mantyger, a quadruped about the size of a mastiff-dog, with a head fourteen inches long, and somewhat resembling that of a horse; the nostrils are large, and the nose depressed lower than the upper jaw. It has a large tuft of hair on the forehead, and under the chin; and the fore-feet resemble human hands exactly, having long and thick fingers, and a thumb, the nails of which are flat: but those of the hinder toes are not so. The fore part of the body, and the inside of the arms and legs are almost bare of hair, but the outside is covered with hair, which is of a motly brown and olive colour. It has a navel and paps on the breast; feeds chiefly on fruits, and will sit and support itself by a stick in one hand, while it drinks out of a cup held in the other. It has two long tusks in the
upper

upper jaw, has no tail, and is a very fierce and lascivious animal.

The Cuandu of Brasil, according to Dr. Tyson, is a sort of porcupine, described by Margrave and Nieuhoff, which has but four toes on the fore feet, and five on the hinder ones; so that, as Margrave observes, for want of what may be called the thumb, it is but slow in climbing trees; but has a way of twisting its tail about a bough, and thereby frequently saves itself from falling.

The Tamandua, another animal of Brasil, has only four toes before, but five behind, and also makes use of his tail in climbing.

The Coati Mundi of Brasil is represented differently by different writers, but is usually said to have a snout about a foot long, small eyes like a pig, round ears like a rat, and hands like those of a monkey. Its hairs are short, rough, and of a blackish colour on the back, the rest of the body having a mixture of black and red. This animal is ranked by Dr. Tyson among the number of those he chuses rather to call four-handed than four-footed, of which some have no thumb on the fore feet, and others none on the hinder feet. Of the former sort he reckons the Vantrevan, as it was called by a person who shewed it in London, which is a beautiful creature, has a long tail, and is very brisk and nimble.

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The Patto, or Sluggard, is likewise one of this kind of animals, having a head not unlike an ape's, and, as Margrave says, two teats on the breast; but it has only three claws on each foot, with very long nails, like the Tamandua. It has its name from the slowness of its motion, which, says Coetlogon, is like that of auxiliaries going to fight, for he scarce advances ten steps in a whole day. When he ascends a tree, he does not leave it till he has devoured both the fruit and the leaves, and then comes down in good plight, but grows lean before he gets up another, if he does not perish with hunger.

The Opossum, which is a native of Brasil and other parts of America, is a very remarkable animal, in shape and size like a badger, but of a lighter colour, and wit • a longer tail. What is most wonderful in this creature, is the bag or purse in the skin of its belly, to which its young ones retire and hide themselves in case of danger. In the male Opossum however this pouch is not discernible, only the skin in that place, according to Dr. Tyson's observation, seemed to be looser, so that he could thrust it in with his fingers, and by turning it round form a sort of bag, but which, on withdrawing his finger, returned to its former position; and for this reason the Doctor leaves it as an uncertain point, to be determined by those who live where these animals are bred, whether this part of the skin is capable of being formed upon occasion into a pouch, and whether they

they ever observe the male Opossum to receive the young as the female does *.

Perhaps the reader will not be displeased if we are a little more particular in our account of an animal so remarkable, which we shall chiefly take from Doctor Tyson and Mr. Cowper, who have both published their anatomical observations on the Opossum in the Philosophical Transactions. That which Dr. Tyson dissected, measured two feet seven inches from the extremity of the nose to the tip of the tail, the length of the head was six inches, that of the tail twelve, and the circumference of the body fifteen inches and a half when dead, but when alive and well, it seemed much thicker. Its fore legs were six inches long, the hinder ones only four and a half, and the tail near the root was three inches in compass. The apertures of the eye-lids were not horizontal, but lying in a strait line from the eyes to the nose. The ears were not sharp, but of a roundish figure, and about an inch and a half in length, which was almost the dimension of the mouth when opened, from one corner to the extremity of the nose. The hinder feet had four

* Dr. Derham, speaking of the care that animals have of their young, mentions the Opossum, and its curious bag, quoting Dr. Tyson; who also takes notice of the Dog-Fish, from Oppian, which upon any storm or danger receives its young ones into its belly: and the same is said of the Squatina and Glaucus.

fingers

fingers armed with long crooked nails, and a perfect thumb, set off at a distance from the range of the other fingers, as in a human creature ; and the fore feet had five long claws or fingers, equally ranged with each other, and a hooked nail at the end of each finger. This formation of the legs, feet, and nails, seems very advantageous to the animal in climbing up trees, which it does very nimbly in pursuit of birds, a prey it is extremely fond of, though that is not its only food. These fingers and claws are naked, and without hair, the skin being of a reddish colour. The palms, if dilated, which the creature does in climbing, are large, but so contrived as to be capable of contraction, which is likewise the case in its walking ; and that the palms might be the better defended from injury, at the setting on of each toe, there is in the palms a protuberant, fleshy, and almost cartilaginous body. In feeding it makes use of its fore feet to bring the food to its mouth, as creatures of the monkey and squirrel kind. The tail is without hair, except for a little way near the root, from whence it tapers to the extremity, and is covered with a regular order of small whitish scales, which for the most part are of an oblong hexagonal figure. Between each there is observable a small skin or membrane, in which they are fixed, and which is of a darker colour. The ears of this creature are bare and without hair, and, though soft and slender, and in colour and substance almost resembling the wing of a bat, are erect, and of an oval figure. Its

upper jaw is somewhat longer than the under, its eyes small, black, vivid, and exerted when alive, but very much sunk when dead. The neck is short, the breast broad, and it has whiskers like those of a cat. On its back and sides it is of an ash-colour, or dappled with black hairs in spots intermixed with white, but its belly is more of an amber colour.

Under the belly, between the two hinder legs, is a slit or aperture, about two inches long, but capable of greater extension, by dilating it with the fingers; and this the animal can so exactly close and contract, that the eye does not readily discern it. On each side of it there is a reduplication of the skin inwards, which forms a hairy bag, though the hairs are very thinly set, so that the skin is almost every where to be discovered. This is the *Marsupium*, bag, or purse, already spoken of, which all authors agree is intended to preserve the animal's young, and secure them against danger; and the contrivance of nature in forming and adapting this part to that end is admirable, there being two strong bones, not to be met with in any other skeleton, which have no motion nearer or farther from each other, but stand always at an equal distance; and these bones are furnished with four pair of muscles, over which runs another pair, which perform the office of a pulley. In the male *Opossum*, which Mr. Cowper dissected, the *Marsupium* was not perceptible, nor the muscles belonging to it; but that gentleman, as well as Dr. Ty-

son, observed the bones just mentioned, and muscles running from them to the hinder legs, which are undoubtedly serviceable to the creature in drawing up its body. This Marsupium, the Doctor found, is a membranous body, not very thick, though consisting of several coats, which perform the office of motion and secretion; for the cavity of the pouch is somewhat hairy, and the Doctor observed the hairs matted together by a yellowish substance, which oozed out of the cutaneous glands. This liquor, discharged into the pouch from the glandulous coat, was of a strong scent, and had more of the peculiar Fætor of the animal than any part besides; but after the skin, together with the pouch, had been kept for some days, and was grown dry, there was so great an alteration in the smell, that what was before very disagreeable, was now become a perfect perfume, resembling exactly the smell of musk. In this pouch most authors place the Mammæ or teats, but Dr. Tyson found none, nor even on the outward skin, as is usual in other multiparous animals; though he imagines the Opossum, the subject of his dissection, might never have had a litter, and for that reason the teats might escape his notice.

The Opossum being a carnivorous animal, and particularly fond of birds, is endued by nature with a faculty of twisting its tail about a small branch of a tree, and thereby stretching itself out to rob a nest, or obtain its desired food: nay, by this means it may be said to

fly ; for hanging thus by the tail, and swinging its body to and fro, it can fling itself into a neighbouring tree, where its tail is sure to fasten on the first bough it meets with, if it otherwise misses its footing ; and its hinder feet being made like hands, and furnished with a thumb, it thereby the more readily raises its body.

Another thing observable in this animal is, that when it is in health there runs a small edging round the verge of the ear, of a perfect milk-white colour ; but this part of the ear being very thin and tender, it is easily affected by cold or illness, and then becomes jagged or crumpled, and the whiteness disappears : and it is on this account that Margrave, in his description of the *Tai-ibi* of Brasil, which Dr. Tyson takes to be the male *Opossum*, says it has white ears, not that the whole ear is white, but only the edges.

It would be tedious to give the Doctor's whole account of his observations on the *Opossum* he dissected, though we would not willingly omit any particular that might be entertaining. We therefore add, what seems a peculiar provision made by nature for the safety of the animal, that the *Vertebræ* of the neck are so strongly and closely locked into each other, that though each of them may be reckoned large in itself, yet thus articulated they do not make full two inches in length ; which thickness and strength of these *Vertebræ*, as well as those of the

the Thorax and loins, and the prominent bony ridge in the Cranium, so well secure its neck, back, and head, that there would be no danger of breaking any of them, if in jumping from bough to bough it should happen to fall to the ground.

We come now to an animal of such a magnitude and strength, as, if not attested by authors of unquestionable veracity, we should not have ventured to describe or mention. This is the Cuntur or Condor of Peru, which Sir Hans Sloane, from the account of Captain Strong, Commander of a South-Sea ship, has taken notice of in the Philosophical Transactions. This is an animal of the feathered race, and of such an amazing bigness, that the Captain's men, who shot one and measured it, found it was sixteen feet from the extremity of one wing to the other. One of its feathers was two feet four inches long, the quill-part near six inches, its weight three drachms, and above seventeen grains, and was concave on one side, and convex on the other. The seamen shot it as it sat on a clift by the sea-side, and eat it, taking it for a species of turkey. They were told by the Spaniards that they were afraid of these birds, lest they should prey upon or injure their children.

To this account it seems proper to add the testimony of Acosta and Garcilasso de la Vega, who say that the fowls corruptly called Condor by the Spaniards, measured fifteen or sixteen

feet from the end of one wing to the other; and that their beak is strong enough to tear off the hide, or rip open the bowels of an ox. Two of them will attack a cow or bull, and devour him; and it has happened that one of them has assaulted and eaten boys of ten or twelve years of age. But it is observed, that nature, to temper and allay their fierceness, has denied them the talons which are given to the eagle, their feet being tipped with claws like a hen. They are black and white, like a magpye, and on the fore part of their head have a comb, not pointed like that of a cock, but rather even, in the form of a razor. It is very well, says our author, there are but few of them, otherwise they would much destroy the cattle *.

In Brasil we find a great number of curious birds, particularly the Anhima, or Unicorn-Bird, so called because it has a horn two or three inches long growing out of its forehead, but blunt and brittle, and therefore of no defence to the creature.

* Dr. Derham observes, that creatures less useful, or by their voracity pernicious, have commonly fewer young, or seldomer bring forth; of which many instances might be given in voracious beasts and birds; but there is one, says he, very peculiar, which is the Cuntur of Peru, a most pernicious bird, and therefore very rare, being seldom seen, and only just enough of them to keep up the species, but not to over-charge the world.

There

There is also the Toukan, of the bigness of a wood-pigeon, of a perfect jet black all over, except under the belly, where it is of a fine yellow, and round its neck is a small circle of red. The natives bedeck themselves with the feathers of this bird, on occasion of festivals, dancing-matches, or other rejoicings. But what is most remarkable is, if the account may be credited, that the bird's bill is larger than its whole body, being about a span long, yellow without, and red within.

Another bird of Brasil is called the Cocoli, which is shaped much like our storks, and has a most curious variety of colours on its feathers.

The Guara, which the Europeans call the Sea-Curlew, is surprising for its often changing its colour, being first black, then ash-coloured, next white, afterwards scarlet, and lastly crimson, which grows deeper and richer the longer the bird lives.

Parrots, parroquets, and various birds of the same species, are there as common as we have pigeons; and though some of them are most beautifully feathered, they are in too great plenty to be esteemed by the natives, except now and then to use their feathers as ornaments.

Of the eatable fowls they have turkeys very large and delicious; and the same may be said
of

of their other kinds of poultry, especially a white sort of hens, whose feathers they dye of a fine green, and mix with those of other birds, which they wear about their heads and middle. They have likewise plenty of ducks and such-like water-fowl, but it is said the Brasilians will not eat them, thinking them infectious: neither will they eat any kind of eggs, esteeming them unwholesome, if not poisonous; and are surprised to see the Europeans so fond of them, and eat them without injury.

The bats of Brasil, like those of the East Indies, are reported to be of a prodigious size, and so bold and dangerous, that they will get into houses in the night, and suck the blood of persons whom they find asleep.

Their bees are smaller than ours, and with their wax they cover and preserve their fine feathers from being gnawed by worms or insects.

We think the several species of sheep to be met with in Peru, are worthy the notice of the curious, particularly those called Llama's by the natives. Their heads are small in proportion to their bodies, somewhat resembling both that of a horse and a sheep, but the upper lip is cleft in the middle, like that of a hare, through which they can spit from them to the distance of ten paces; and this spittle, it is said, if it falls on any one's flesh, makes a reddish spot, which is followed by an intolerable

terable itching. Their necks are long, bowing downwards like the camel's; which animal, except the bunch on the back, they pretty much resemble. Their height is from four feet to four and a half, and they generally carry a hundred weight, walking with their heads erect, looking grave and majestic, and with such a regular pace that it is scarce to be altered by beating. These sheep eat but little, and seldom or never drink, so that they are very easily kept, grazing upon a short herb like a rush, with which the mountains of that country are covered. It seems they are used by the Spaniards in the mines to carry ore to the mills; and when they are once acquainted with their stage, they want no guide or driver. Above the foot they have a spur, which they make use of to hold by among the rocks, so that they are wonderfully sure-footed. Their wool has a strong scent, and somewhat disagreeable; it is long, white, grey, and fine.

The Vicunna's of Peru are shaped much like the Llama's, only they are smaller and nimbler, and their wool being extraordinarily fine, is very much valued. These creatures are sometimes hunted in the following manner: Many Indians get together to drive them into some narrow pass, where they have made ropes fast across, three or four feet from the ground, on which are hung bits of wool and cloth. At the motion of these, the animals are so frightened, that they dare not go any farther; so that they crowd together, and the hunters
kill

kill them with stones made fast to the end of leather thongs. If any of those creatures called Guanaco's happen to be amongst them, they leap over the cords, and the Vicunna's follow them. The Guanaco's are larger and more corpulent, and in some parts are called Vi-cacha's.

Of the animals found on the coasts of America, particularly Brasil, Terra Firma, and many of the neighbouring islands, we know of none more deserving the attention of the curious than the Turtle or Tortoise. But it is to be observed there are two kinds of Tortoises, the Land and the Sea Tortoise; and this latter again is of various kinds; but it is only one sort, called the Caret or Caretta, which furnishes that beautiful shell * so much admired in Europe. This is otherwise called the Hawk's-bill Tortoise, whose shell is thick, and consists of two parts, the one covering the back, the other the belly, and the two are joined together at the sides by strong ligaments, which yet allow of a little motion. In the fore part is an aperture for the head and fore legs, and behind for the hind legs and tail. We are told that the under shell alone is used, which

* Mr. Catesby observes, that the hard strong covering which incloses all sorts of Tortoises is very improperly called a shell, being of a perfect bony contexture, and covered on the outside with scales, or rather plates, of a horny substance, which the workmen call Tortoise-shell.

they

they separate from the upper by making a little fire underneath, and as soon as it is warm it is easily taken off in Laminæ or leaves with the point of a knife, without killing the animal, which, it is said, being turned to sea again, acquires a new shell. These leaves are thirteen in number, eight of them flat, and five a little bent; and four of the flat ones are sometimes a foot long, and six or seven inches broad. The best Tortoise-shell is thick, clear, transparent, and sprinkled with brown and white; but when used in marquetry, and such-like works, the workmen give it what colour they please, by laying coloured leaves underneath it.

Of the several kinds of Tortoises only one of them is eatable, which is called the Green Tortoise, its fat being of a greenish colour. The method of taking them is to observe their tracks in the sea-sands, and the next night sit up to watch, and turn them on their backs, for then they are quite helpless. Their blood is cold; and Mr. Smith informs us, that he has seen, upon opening one of them, at least two hundred eggs, exactly round, taken out of it, about forty of which were inclosed in whitish tough skins, with a substance like jelly round the yolk, and were ready to be laid all at one time. Rogers says, he saw at some islands in the South Sea, a Turtle that had at least eight hundred eggs in its belly, a hundred and fifty of which were skinned and ready for laying. The female Turtles go ashore to lay their eggs in the sand, above high-water mark, where
they

they leave them to be hatched by the warm beams of the sun ; and this is effected in eight and forty hours time *, as our author was informed by those who made it their business to fetch them from some uninhabited islands, where they are vastly plenty ; and where they see, almost every day, great numbers of young ones, not broader than a shilling, newly hatched, hastening down into the sea. The same is asserted by Rogers above quoted ; for as they are frequently disturbed in inhabited places, they seldom go ashore there ; and it is observed that the Hawk's-bill Turtles do not often come amongst others.

Almost incredible particulars are related of the size of some Turtles, as that one of them will afford flesh enough for two or three hundred men, which is salted as we do beef, and which seamen in long voyages find an excellent refreshment, as well as a cure for several indispositions. Their eggs, which are about the bigness of a hen's, will also keep for a considerable time, and are esteemed good food in many parts of the West Indies.

We are likewise told that in some places the shells serve the natives for boats ; and De Last mentions Turtles of such a bulk as to creep along with five men upon their backs.

* Other accounts say in about five and twenty days, which seems far more probable.

The



The Turtles being amphibious, they feed on grafs and weeds, as well in the water as on the land ; but they usually make their residence and find their aliment in certain meadows at the bottom of the sea, where it is not many fathoms deep : and according to the accounts of navigators, when the sea is calm and the weather serene, they may be seen creeping on this green carpet. After they have fed sufficiently, they take their progress into the outlets of rivers for fresh water or air, and then return to their former station. In the intermission of their feeding they frequently float with their heads above the surface of the water, unless they are alarmed by any appearance of danger, in which case they suddenly plunge to the bottom ; for the Tortoise having the benefit of lungs, she can distend herself by an influx of air, and be brought to an equilibrium with the water, like a frog ; and, like other amphibious creatures, she is enabled to swim by the impulse and retraction of her paws, though for the generality she contents herself with creeping.

Shells in general make a very curious part of natural history, on account of their great variety, the uncouth make of some, and the beautiful colours and pretty ornaments of others ; but, as Dr. Derham observes, it would be endless to descend to particulars, and therefore he only mentions that of the Tortoise. But besides the beauty of this covering, it is an instance of the excellent provision the wise Creator has made for the good of the animal world,

being a stout guard to its body, and affording a safe retreat for its head, legs, and tail, which it withdraws within the shell upon any danger. And it is worth remarking, that the shell supplies the place of all bones in the creature, except those of the extreme parts, the head and neck, and the four legs and tail: so that at first it is somewhat surprising to see a compleat skeleton consisting of so small a number of bones, and yet those abundantly sufficient for the use of the animal.

There remains another remarkable thing to be mentioned concerning these creatures, which is, that for two or three months in the year they leave their common haunts, where they chiefly feed, and resort to other places to lay their eggs; and it is thought they eat nothing during that season, so that both males and females grow very lean. This however is certain, that the Land-Tortoise, who is formed much in the same manner as those of the sea, is able to subsist several months without food; for those which are kept in gardens out of curiosity in England are observed to bury themselves in the ground on the approach of winter, and there remain in a kind of sleepy state, till the return of the spring invites them to leave their subterraneous retirement; for which, according to Dr. Derham, they are admirably adapted by the structure of their heart and lungs*.

After

* To the long abstinence of brute animals, our author adds one or two instances of extraordinary ab-

After the tortoise it is natural enough to mention the Armadillo, an animal found in the

abstinence among mankind; and first that of Martha Taylor, born in Derbyshire, who by a blow on the back fell into such a prostration of appetite, that she took little sustenance, but some drops with a feather for thirteen months, and slept very little too all the time. The Doctor then mentions the case of S. Chilton of Tinsbury near Bath, who often slept for several weeks together; which case being very extraordinary, we hope an extract of it from the Philosophical Transactions will not be unacceptable to the reader. This Chilton was a labouring man, about twenty-five years of age, not fat but fleshy, and on the 13th of May 1694, without any visible cause, fell into a profound sleep, out of which he could by no means be roused by those about him, but after a month's time he rose of himself, put on his cloaths, and went about his business of husbandry as usual. From this time till about the 9th of April 1696, he remained free from any extraordinary drowsiness, but then fell into his sleeping fit again. After some days his friends were prevailed on to try what remedies might effect; and accordingly one Mr. Gibbs, an apothecary, bled, blistered, cupped, and scarified him, and used all the external irritating medicines he could think of, but all to no purpose. Victuals stood by him as before, which he eat now and then, but nobody ever saw him eat or evacuate, though he did both as he had occasion; and sometimes they found him fast asleep with the pot in his hand in bed, and sometimes with his mouth full of meat. In this manner he lay till the 7th of August, which was seventeen weeks from the time when he began to sleep; and

the West Indies, and in Guinea, which has its back covered with a hard shell, that seems to be

then he awaked, put on his cloaths, and walked about the room, not knowing he had slept so long, till going into the fields he found people busy in getting in their harvest, and he remembered that when he fell asleep they were sowing their oats and barley. From this time he remained well till the 17th of August 1697, when he complained of a shivering and a coldness in his back, vomited once or twice, and the same day fell fast asleep again. Dr. Oliver, from whom this account is taken, went to see him, and felt his pulse, which was then very regular, he was in a breathing sweat, and had an agreeable warmth all over his body. The Doctor then put his mouth to his ear, and called him as loud as he could several times by his name, pulled him by the shoulders, pinched his nose, stopped his mouth and nose together, but to no purpose, the man not giving the least sign of his being sensible. Upon this the Doctor held a phial with Spirit of Sal Armoniac under one of his nostrils, and injected about half an ounce of it up the same nostril, but it only made his nose run, and his eye-lids shiver and tremble a little. Finding no success this way, the Doctor crammed that nostril with powder of white Hellebore, and waited some time to see what effect it would produce; but the man did not discover the least uneasiness. The Doctor then left him, fully satisfied that he was really asleep, and no fallen counterfeit, as some people supposed. About ten days after, an apothecary took fourteen ounces of blood from his arm, tied it again, and left him as he found him, without his making the least motion all the while. The latter end of September Dr. Oliver saw him again,

be buckled to it like a coat of armour. Its tail is long like a rat's, and is also covered with a scaly shell. The whole creature is not much bigger than a little pig, which it resembles in its snout, ears, legs, and feet. It has four toes before, and five behind.

Among the fishes to be met with in the seas of South America, particularly on the coast of Brazil, is a remarkable one called the Globe-fish, from its orbicular form, or the Sea Hedgehog, as being beset all round with large spikes like those of the land one, whereby it bids defiance to all fishes of prey, and has a surprising facility of moving itself forward on the

again, and a gentleman ran a large pin into his arm to the very bone, but he gave no signs of being sensible what was done to him. In this manner he lay till the 19th of November, when his mother hearing him make a noise, ran immediately up to him, and found him eating. She asked him, How he did? Very well, said he, thank God! And again she asked him, Which he liked best, bread and butter, or bread and cheese? He answered, bread and cheese: Whereupon the woman overjoyed ran down to acquaint his brother with it, and both coming up again presently, they found him as fast asleep as ever. Thus he continued till the end of January or beginning of February, at which time he awaked perfectly well, remembering nothing that had happened all the while. It was observed, that he was very little altered in his flesh, only he complained the cold pinched him more than usual, and so went about his business as at other times,

water by the contraction and motion of those prickles.

But of all the animals in these seas, there seems to be none more curious than the Sea-Bladder, which has not been taken notice of by many authors. It is not unfitly stiled a bladder, being in most respects like one, and swimming on the surface of the waves. It is of an oblong roundish form, five or six inches in diameter, has a skin very thin and transparent, and, like a bubble raised on the water, reflects all the colours of the sky. The inside is only filled with air, except about a spoonful of water which serves to balance it; and underneath it has a set of fibres of a vermicular form, which the creature extends or contracts, and thereby moves itself along. On its back it has a kind of plaited membrane, which it likewise expands or folds up at pleasure, in order to take in more or less wind; and it is only by these two last circumstances that they are known to move spontaneously, except when the wind is too strong for them to resist, by which they are frequently drove on shore and taken.

In the seas we are speaking of, as well as in some others, is to be found the little fish called the Remora, or Sucking-Fish, resembling a herring, with crest and fins, having a sucker about two inches long on the top of his head. The mouth is wide, the eyes small, the under jaw longer than the upper, with two rows of
small

The Remora



The Shark



Water sculp



small sharp teeth. This fish was much talked of amongst the antients, who supposed, as appears from Pliny, that by sticking to the side of a ship, it was able to stop the vessel under full sail, or a whale in swimming *. But, as Mr. Catesby observes, a number of these fishes can do no more than shells, or corals, and other foulnesses of the same bulk, which make a ship somewhat slower; and in the same manner they may be some small hindrance to a whale. The same author assures us he has taken five of them off the body of a shark; and hence we call it the Sucking-Fish.

To this we may add the Pilot-fish, so called, as supposed to accompany the shark, and direct him to his prey; and Coetlogon assures us, from his own certain knowledge, that the shark is always attended by one or two of these fish, which on that account he will not devour, though never so hungry; but this favours too much of fable.

The fish is of a deep blue, but the belly of a lighter colour than the back and sides; and when swimming it appears much like a mackerel.

In the seas of South America, and especially about the Tropics, are often seen swimming

* Hence they gave it the name of *Remora*, from *remoror*, to stop or hinder.

in shoals those fishes we call Old Wives* and Old Husbands, which indeed make a very remarkable figure. The former is commonly about ten inches long, and five in breadth; has a very small mouth, with sharp teeth, a large eye placed high on its head, two nostrils or vent-holes under the fore part of the eye, a rising sharp back, the belly flattish, and the whole fish is covered with a hard crustaceous skin, of a brown colour, but curiously marked with indented spots, which are large on the sides, and smaller about the head and tail. The tail is long and slender, and the fish can draw it into its body at pleasure, as it were into a socket. It has four fins of a lighter brown than the body, as is also the end of the tail.

The Old Husband, supposed to be the male species, seems designed by nature for the defence of the female, as well as his own, being armed with two sharp horns on the fore part of his head, growing from a thick basis, about three quarters of an inch in length; and though but slender, they are so strong, that he is capable of giving dangerous wounds to the sides of an enemy. His hinder part is likewise well guarded with two long fins like his horns, one on each side of the belly near the tail; and when closely chased, he draws up his tail, and

* Pascoe Thomas says, they found plenty of these fish, amongst others that he mentions, at the island of St. Catharine's, on the coast of Brasil.

bids

bids defiance with his horns to his pursuers. These two fishes swim together in company, and, except the horns, they pretty much resemble each other.

But to return to the land, where we shall find some remarkable animals not yet mentioned; and first it may not be improper to take notice of what some travellers relate concerning the various kinds of monkeys to be met with in the Andes and other parts of South America. Some of them are said to be merry, others melancholy; some nimble, and others heavy; some hairy, others almost naked; of themselves timorous, but taking courage if a man seems to be afraid. There are likewise vast numbers of apes, somewhat different from monkeys, with long tails, and of several colours, some black, some grey, &c. We are told strange things of the nimbleness of these creatures, that they skip about the trees like birds, and sometimes hang to a bough by the tail, and so swing themselves where they please; and that when the leap is too great for one alone, they lay hold of each other's tails, and so swing till the lowermost, with the assistance of the rest, gives a spring and lays hold of the bough, and so they all get over.

Of the like nature is the account we have of herds of swine among the mountains above-mentioned, which have navels on their backs, and every herd has its leader, who is easily known, because none of them presume to go
before

before him; and when this leader is killed, the herd may be safely attacked, for they disperse as a vanquished army. It is also said of these creatures, that some of them will rub themselves against certain trees whose blossoms they are fond of, and so shake them off for the rest to eat, who in their turn do the same for their companions.

But the most surprising relations travellers entertain us with, are concerning the multitude and monstrous size of the serpents of Brasil. We are told of some that are thirty feet long or upwards, and as big about as a hoghead *, so that they can swallow at once a whole buck or a man, and easily take either of them by throwing their tails round them; and hence this frightful creature has obtained the name of the Roebuck Serpent. Nay, to carry the matter still farther, we are likewise told of a water-snake in Brasil, near forty feet long, and every way proportionable, in whose body were found two wild boars he had swallowed.

As for the *Amphisbæna*, or serpent with two heads, it is generally looked upon as a fictitious animal.

* This somewhat exceeds the account we have already given of the serpents of Congo; but the dimensions so nearly agree, that we suppose they are of the same species, if there are in reality any such serpents in nature. Mr. Rogers tells us, that he much suspected the truth of the account he had of this monstrous Brazilian serpent, till he had it confirmed by the governor of the country.

Though

Though these accounts may be exaggerated, it is certain that Brasil is remarkable for large serpents and other venomous creatures. There is one called Ibaboka, which is between three and four yards long, and of a considerable thickness. Its colours are various, as black, white, red, green, &c. and its bite mortal, but the poison works the slowest of any. On the other hand they have a little four-legged animal of so venomous a nature, that its sting is absolutely mortal, unless the part be immediately cut off, or burnt with a red-hot iron. Some of their scorpions are four or five feet long, but their sting is not reckoned so dangerous as those in Europe. They have also lizards three or four feet in length, and in great numbers; and also creatures called Centipedes, or Hundred Legs, very venomous and troublesome. Add to these those little animals, mentioned in the Philosophical Transactions, N^o. 139, called *Poux de Pharaon*, that is, Pharaoh's Lice, which get into the feet between the skin and the flesh, growing in one day as big as beans; and if they are not presently extracted, they cause an intolerable ulcer, and the whole foot corrupts.

E N D of V O L. XIII.



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